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# The Icelandic Canadian

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## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

In his preface to "The North American Book of Icelandic Verse", Dr. Watson Kirkconnell says:

"I disagree profoundly with those who would hack off completely all roots of European culture and then hew the mutilated trunk into conformity with some arbitrary nationalistic pattern; I believe rather that the perpetuation of the finest elements of Old World cul-

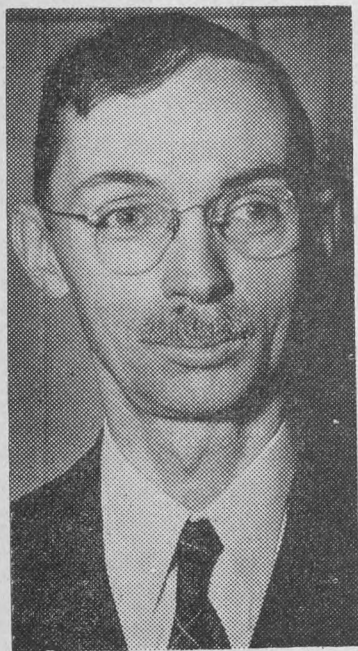
likewise seek to cherish the magnificent literatures which are the heritage of nearly every European stock?"

At this time, or in 1930, Dr. Kirkconnell had made a definite plan to prepare for publication, during the next twelve years, a series of twenty-four "North American Books of European Verse", containing his own translations of poetry from twenty-four languages. Just two years previously he had published **European Elegies**, a book of one hundred elegiac poems chosen and translated by himself from European literature in fifty languages.

Dr. Kirkconnell was born in Port Hope, Ontario in 1895, and was educated in Eastern universities, winner of innumerable scholarships, Master of Arts (Queens, 1916) and received the I.O.D.E. Overseas (Postgraduate) scholarship to Oxford in 1921. He was married in 1924 to Isabel Peel who died in 1925, and in 1930 to Hope Kitchener. There are five children.

From young manhood onward, Watson Kirkconnell has been occupied progressively as teacher, lecturer and professor, being at Wesley (now 'United College') Winnipeg, from 1922-1940, becoming Professor in English and Latin, and head of the department in 1933. In 1940 he became Head of the Dept. of English at McMaster U., Hamilton, Ont. He will assume his new position as president of Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S., August 1, 1948.

Dr. Kirkconnell has written upwards of twenty book on a wide variety of subjects, as well as hundreds of articles for academic and other magazines. He



Dr. Watson Kirkconnell

ture will incalculably enrich the life of the New World. This is the cornerstone of my venture. North Americans of Welsh or Scottish extraction are not worse but better citizens when they can still proudly drink from the springs of their ancestral literatures. Shall we not

has also been greatly in demand as lecturer on education, literature, and international affairs. He has travelled extensively, not only in Canada and the United States, but also in England, almost all the European countries and in Cyprus, Syria, Palestine and Egypt.

In addition Watson Kirkconnell has given of his time freely in voluntary service in each community where he has lived, being on the executive of numerous humanitarian and educational councils and has served in church and Sunday school work. He has at various times served as president of: Winnipeg Poetry Society, Canadian Polish Society, League of Nations Society (Manitoba), Winnipeg Peace Conference, and National President, Canadian Authors' Association, 1942-44.

Perhaps it would be easy for one who drives himself so hard to become a mere automaton, spilling over with stilted academic erudition. But W. K., besides being a brilliant scholar, possessing a keenly analytical mind which he applies fearlessly, to international problems, is also a sensitive artist, having written two volumes of original verse, *The Tide of Life and Other Poems*, and *The Eternal Quest*. Of the Tide of Life, Sir Charles G. D. Roberts says: "The Tide of Life is Poetry in the grand manner—big, richly imaginative, stately and satisfying in its music and its cadences, choice in its craftsmanship, and when necessary, poignant in its human appeal. It is not popular poetry, thank the gods; but surely permanent poetry, and will come into its own".

While in Winnipeg Watson Kirkconnell met and became acquainted with all the cultural traditions that he had met with on his European travels. "The vision of their possible fusion into a Canadian people caught my imagination", he says. Yes, he saw a vision of a strong nation formed by a blending of

the various racial elements, each drawing on its own rich diversity of heritage and tradition. Only the white-hot flame which burns within the heart of a visionary, together with his profound feeling of kinship with the emotional utterings of mankind, could prompt a man to undertake the prodigious task that W. K. set himself—namely, to translate poetic gems from fifty languages, and for his work in this field he is almost revered by the so-called New Canadians whose national heritage he has thus brought before the public.

He has been elected an honorary fellow of the Icelandic Society of Letters (Reykjavík, Iceland) and has received fellowships, degrees, and medals from France, Poland and Hungary, including the degree of Ph.D. (*honoris causa*) from Debrecen University, Hungary. He has received honors from Literary, Philological, Linguistic, and Historical Societies of Great Britain and the United States, and the Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Canada, 1942, "for distinguished contributions to Canadian literature".

You might be tempted to ask: 'does this man never sleep at all?' to which we can only answer: for a man of such unusual gifts, such broad human sympathies, and such a vital, virile outlook, each golden day is a challenge, each hour offers untold opportunities which are eagerly grasped, and each fleeting minute is an exquisite experience in giving fully and generously of his best to humanity.

And yet he has time for his friends, for good companionship, where he is much appreciated as a brilliant conversationalist, witty teller of anecdotes, and possessor of a fine singing voice. He also finds moments of quietude, when he revels in a bit of nature study for relaxation.

As Canadians we have reason to be

proud of this great fellow countryman who is "among the most distinguished men of letters of the world to-day", (*Young Magyar-American*). And as Icelandic Canadians we owe him a profound debt for making Canada and the world aware of our great Icel.-Can. poets, such as Stephan G. Stephansson and Guttormur J. Guttormsson, as well as his transfusion into Canadian literature of some of the gems of older Icelandic poetry.

Dr. Kirkconnell's published books in this field have involved not only extensive study of ancient and modern Icelandic literature, but also pioneer research work in the Icelandic poetry of Western Canada.

It is therefore, with a great deal of pleasure that *The Icelandic Canadian* presents to its readers, in this issue, an article by Dr. Kirkconnell entitled, "History in Icelandic Vocabulary".

—H.D.

It is very appropriate that the Icelandic Canadian should, at this time, present to its readers a translation, though but a mere fragment, from the writings of one of Iceland's leading

thought, often so beautifully expressed in poetry and prose.

The fragment, to which we have alluded, is a short story by Elinborg Lárusdóttir. It is one of a number of short stories published in 1935, under the title "Sögur", (stories) which was the author's first book.

There is an introduction to the book by the very distinguished Icelandic author, the late Einar H. Kvaran, who, when a young man, lived for some years in Winnipeg and then went back to his native land. At the time the introduction was written the author was but little known in Iceland. It is, therefore, not based upon past recognition but rests upon the merits of the stories themselves. The following is an excerpt.

"It is easy for me to state that I have read these stories with unusual pleasure. It is quite obvious that here a genuine poet has entered the stage. Not only are these modest unaffected stories told with the skill of the artist, they are filled with sympathy and the understanding of a human soul richly endowed with love and kindness. The pictures which the author sketches before the reader in a few strokes, are uplifting and cannot be forgotten".

Since the first book was launched, Elinborg Lárusdóttir has not been idle.



Elinborg Lárusdóttir

present day authors, who happens to be visiting Winnipeg just now.

People very often indulge in superlatives in referring to the inherent worth of Icelandic literature. Translations, by way of example, give force and vitality to those utterances and enable the reader to get a fleeting glance into the wealth of accumulated

By now she has published fourteen books and has two manuscripts in the making one of which is almost completed.

There are three books of short stories, the last one being published in 1947, and three novels of average length. Then there are five historical novels all of which are based upon actual events in the national life of the Icelandic people—something to which the author has given much research and study. Three of these historical novels form a series called “Förumenn”. (Förumenn are paupers who travel from farmstead to farmstead where they are given food and shelter but seldom money. They stay for intervals of time varying in length). The other two historical novels are called “Strandarkirkja”, the Church by the Seaside, and “Hvíta Höllin”, the White Palace. There are two books in which interesting events and experiences in the lives of two spiritualist mediums are narrated, and one biography, a story of the life of a man by the name of Jón Eiríksson.

The writer of these lines has read some of the other stories in “Sögur”. The one that gripped him the most is called “Sóley”, which is the name of the girl it sketches. The author

reveals in her inimitable way the brave spirit of this sixteen year old girl who is afflicted with tuberculosis in its final stages. The sketch is very brief but even only one sentence tells a whole story and leaves a lesson of abiding value.

“This is a living corpse,” I muse, “her eyes are life itself, her body death”.

The visit of Elinborg Lárusdóttir brings home to us a two-fold duty which rests upon all who seek to maintain the bonds that still bind us to the land of our fathers and mothers. There should be more translating of gems from Icelandic poetry and prose, and visits by men of letters should be encouraged. If they cannot come to us then we should visit Iceland, not only to enjoy the grandeur of its scenery but to become acquainted with some of the men and women who are perpetuating a cultural wealth which some day will be given its due recognition as an integral part of Western civilization.

We, of the west, are glad that Elinborg has dwelt with us for a while. We hope that she will profit by the visit and that it will leave impressions which she will draw upon in her future writings so that we may share them with her.

—W.J.L.

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# *History in Icelandic Vocabulary*

By WATSON KIRKCONNELL

The historian has many allies. Archaeologists sift the ruins of dead cities to furnish them with data; epigraphists strain their eyes to decipher the chiseled tombstones of the past; palaeographers laboriously transliterate the crabbed parchments of Ptolemies or Plantagenets; and antiquaries fill museums with rusted tools and faded furniture. These are concrete evidence, from the study of which he may replace the romantic myths of court and camp by a serious survey of human societies in their rise and fall.

But there is still another field of evidence in which a potential ally is patiently grubbing out the roots and cultivating the soil. It is the field of language, and its husbandman is the philologist.

Languages are not merely a means whereby each fugitive generation of human beings expresses its desires and aspirations. They are a living substance, plastic yet relatively rigid, protean in impulse yet conservative as nature in the laws by which it changes. The contacts of people with people, of culture with culture, make their inevitable imprint upon language and record the essential significance of these events. Were all evidence of English history destroyed except a record of English vocabulary at intervals of a century or so, the philologist could from such data deduce the nation's annals in their main outlines. The eloquent scarcity of Old British terms, the plentiful Latinisms of early Christianity, the penetration of Scandinavian words into the very life of the hearth, the monopoly of Norman-French in the terminology of the feudal system and the law court, the wholesale Latin importations in Renaissance literature, the growing levy of commercial and

geographical terms from the tea of China to the quinine of Peru—all these are historical evidence, embedded in language like flies in amber.

Similarly the modern speech of the Ottoman Turks, compounded as it is from equal parts of three fundamentally different languages—the Ural-Altaic Turkish, the Semitic Arabic, and the Indo-European Persian—reveals in its very composition the influences that were blended in the making of the Turkish Empire.

It may be argued that the cases of English and Turkish are exceptional, and that many other languages have not been susceptible to foreign influences. We may, therefore, undertake a not unprofitable exercise in examining the historical evidence of the vocabulary of a much more homogeneous and less likely language.

Such a language is Icelandic. Whereas the non-Teutonic element in English has been estimated at 400,000 words out of a total of half a million, the loan-words in Icelandic have been reckoned by Dr. Sigfús Blöndal, their greatest lexicographer, at 975, with upwards of 6000 simple derivatives.

There have been many reasons for this lack of outside influence. For one thing, the Icelanders during the ten and a half centuries of their national existence have lived more in a vacuum than any other European people. The invasion of armies could mean little to their far-off Arctic retreat. Moreover, they had created, at the very beginning of their history, a great literature in the Old Icelandic tongue, and this literature, like the Latin tradition in Italy, has been a great stabilizing force down through the centuries, bringing it about that Icelandic has undergone

less phonetic and etymological change in the past millennium than any other language of the Occident.

Yet there have been changes, particularly in vocabulary. To estimate the significance of these, I have cast my nets for loan-words through all the pages of the large Vigfússon-Cleasby dictionary of the Old Icelandic and have classified my draught of fishes in terms of the historical experience of the Icelandic people.

Prior to the ninth century A.D., of course, the history of the stock that colonized Iceland is one with that of the continental Scandinavians. Many words in Icelandic literature bear witness to outside contacts in those far-off years. Thus *sámr*, "swarthy, blackish", used as the name of a dog, a giant, or of persons generally, is probably from the Finnish *saomi*, and indicative of intermarriage between Finns and Northmen. *Gálkn*, "a monster" is also probably Finnish (cp. Lappish *galco*); and *hreinn* "a reindeer" is derived from the Lappish *reino* "pasturage".

Language also bears witness to early trade contacts with the merchants of the Mediterranean world. *Eyrir* "money, silver coin", is from Latin *aurum*, because the first coins known in Scandinavia were of Roman and Byzantine origin. *Vín* "wine" (L. *vinum*) and *lín* "flax" (L. *linum*, Gr. *linon*) are evidence as to the commodities of early commerce. The Latin *caupones* "merchants" contributed *kaupa* "to buy", an early borrowing from Latin common to all Teutonic languages (cp. Eng. *chaffer*, *chapman*, German *Kaufen*, etc.). Other early loan-words were *kopar* "copper" (L. *cuper*); *stræti* "highway, street" (L. *strata via* "paved road"); *öxl* "shoulder" (L. *axilla*); *akkeri*, mod. *atkeri* 'anchor' (L. *ancora*. Gk. *angkyra*); *múr* "a wall" (L. *murus*);

and *skrifa* "to write" (L. *scribere*). Some of these were reinforced from the corresponding forms in Anglo-Saxon England, but the general impression is that they entered all Teutonic languages at the time when Roman traders still wandered about all the bordering seas of Europe.

To the same period of early borrowings belongs *fill*, "elephant", ultimately from the Persian *fil*, a word which entered primitive Scandinavian speech at a very early date by the eastern trade route through Byzantium and Russia. Side by side with it in modern Icelandic are *olifant* "a unicorn", and *úlfaldi* "a camel", both ultimately from the Semitic *aleph-hind* "Indian ox", i.e., "elephant." The former has entered Icelandic through Old English *olifaunt*, however, and the latter through Gothic *ulbandus*; but both have undergone a curious zoological change in the course of their travels. The word *camel*, Greek *camelos*, from Semitic *gámál* has never been adopted in Icelandic. It may be that *api* "an ape", ultimately from Sanskrit *kapi* (cp. A.S. *apa*, Czech *op*, Erse *apa*) also migrated across to the Baltic by the Eastern route.

Icelandic history proper begins about 872 A.D. with the settlement of the island by Norse colonists. This settlement was spread, however, over a period of sixty years, and many of the migrants from Scandinavia spent an interval of varying duration among the Gaelic-speaking peoples of Western Scotland, the Hebrides, and Ireland, inter-marrying with the Celtic-speaking population and bringing many Celts with them as wives or servants. We are therefore not surprised to find upwards of fifty Irish names occurring frequently in the roster of original settlers in the great Icelandic *Landnámabók* or "Book of Settlement". Among

the most obvious of these are **Briann** "Brian", **Dufan** "Duff" (dubh "black"), **Dínus** "Dennis", **Gilli** "Gillie" (gilla "servant"), **Kaðlin** "Kathleen", **Kalman** "Coleman", **Kiallakr** "Gallagher", **Konnall** "Connell", **Kormak** 'Cormac' (O.Ir. **corb-mac**, "charioteer"), **Njál** "Neil" (O.Ir. **Níall** "Champion"), **Patrekr** "Patrick", and **Raforta** "Rafferty". The Icelandic form of Patrick, curiously enough, is responsible for the curious legend that St. Patrick drove the toads and snakes out of Ireland. The name was originally Lat. **Patricius** "a patrician"; this became the abbreviated Irish **Patricc**; but the Icelandic form with its regular ending in **r** sounded to the popular ear like **padd-rekur** "a toad-driver" from **padda** "toad" and **reka** "driver," and imagination easily did the rest.

Since the Celtic share in these mixed families was very frequently on the distaff side, it is perhaps natural to find **brekan** "stitched bed-cover" derived from Irish **breacán** "rug" (**breac** "speckled", cf. Sc. **breacan** "tartan"), and **prjónn** "a knitting-pin" from Gaelic **prine**. Related to **brekan** is **brók**, pl. **brækr**, meaning (1) "tartan", and (2) "breeches".

Although Irish Christianity made little impact on Old Norse paganism, yet it seems to have introduced **kross** "a cross" and **bagall** "a crozier", which the Old Irish had borrowed from Latin **crux** and **baculus** respectively. **Klukka** "a bell", "a clock", entered at the same time from Old Irish **cloc** "a bell" (primitive Irish **clocca**), usually regarded by philologists as the source of derivatives so diverse as German **Glocke** (O.H.G. **glocka**), Ital. **ciocco**, French **cloche**, Portuguese **choca**, Dutch **klok**, Eng. **clock**, and Welsh **cloch**. The word everywhere used to mean a bell, and hence, in time, a public clock with

a bell, and finally any large time-piece.

Other Celtic borrowings are **fönn** "snow", from the Gaelic **fionn** "white"; **pollr** "a pool" from Gaelic **poll** (LL. **padulus** by metathesis from Lat. **paludis**); **lung** "ship" from Welsh **llong**; **brokk** "badger" from Irish **brocc**; **járn** "iron" from O. Ir. **iarn** (suggestive of the early Celtic eminence in iron-working); and **örkn** "seal" in **Orkneyjar** "Seal Islands". When we recall that some authorities estimate the Irish blood in Iceland at as high as forty per cent., the paucity of linguistic borrowings may seem remarkable; but we must recall that the Irish occupied in general an inferior position in the social order of Iceland and that their masters would not be likely to learn much of the language of those on whom they looked down.

Christianity was introduced about the year 1000 A.D., and while its missionaries nominally came from Norway, most of them were either English or had themselves recently received the new religion at English hands. As a result, most of the ecclesiastical terms in Icelandic, although ultimately from Latin or Greek, were taken over in modified Anglo-Saxon forms. Examples are **kirkja** "church" (A.S. **circe**, Gk. **kyriakon**); **prestur** "priest" (A.S. **preost**, LL. **presbyter**, Gk.); **biskup** "bishop" (A.S. **biscop**, **bisceop**, LL. **episcopus**, Gk. **episkopos**); **predika** "to preach" (A.S. **predician**, L. **praedicare**); **klerkr** "a clerk" (A.S. **clerc**, L. **clericus**, Gk.); **reykelsi** "incense" (A.S. **recels**); **kyndill** "candle" (A.S. **candel**, L. **candela**); **kalkr** "chalice, cup" (A.S. **calc**, L. **calix**); **róða** "the rood, cross" (A.S. **ród**); **krismi** or **krisma** "chrism" (A.S. **crisma**, L., Gk. **chrisma**); **fontur** "font" (A.S. **font**, L. **fons**, **fontis**); **messa** "mass" (A.S. **maesse**, L. **missa** [est]); **sálmur** "psalm" (A.S. **sealm**, L. **psalmus**, Gk. **psalmos**); **klaust-**

ur "cloister" (A.S. *claustr*, L. *claustrum*); *musteri* "temple" (A.S. *mynster*, LL. *monasterium* Gk.); *munkur* "monk" (A.S. *munuc*, LL. *monachos*, Gk.); *nunna* "nun" (A.S. *nunne*, L. *nonna*); *prófastur* "archdeacon" (Eng. *provost* L. *prasepositus*); *pistill* 'epistle' (A.S. *pistol*, L. *epistola*, Gk.); *nón* "no-nes" a service at three o'clock in the afternoon, the source of modern English *noon* (A.S. *non*, L. *nona hora*, "the ninth hour"); *offra* "to offer" (A.S. *offrian*, L. *offerre*); *páskar* "Easter" (A.S. *pascha*, L., Gk. *pascha*, Hebrew *pásach* "passover"); *engill* "angel" (A.S. *engel*, L. *Angelus*, Gr. *angelos*); *skrin* "a shrine" (A.S. *scriu* "receptacle for a saint's relics, a shrine", L. *scrinium* "a chest"); and *pína* "to torment" together with *pínsl* "Passion", both from A.S. *pínan*, *pínian* (L. *poena*). Particularly striking are the early English derivatives *blessa* "to bless", *Imbrudagar* "Ember-days", and *dymbill-dagar* "dumb-bell days". *Blessa* (in the older language *bletza*) is from A.S. *bletzian*, a word which never took root in Norway but has flourished in Iceland ever since the early Christianization of the island. To this day the Icelander says *Guð blessi þig* "God bless you" where the other Scandinavian peoples say *Gud signe dig*. The A.S. *Imbren-dagas*, the original of *Imbru-dagar*, seems to involve a corruption from L. *tempora* "seasons" from *quatuor temporum*, the four seasons of the year set aside for ordination, but may have been influenced as well by the A.S. *ymbryne*, "course, revolution of time, period". *Dymbill-dagar* is a somewhat later borrowing from English and bears evidence to the general practice of the medieval church of using a wooden tongue (*dymbill* Eng. *dumb-bell*) in the church bells during Passion Week. The word *dumb-bell* lingers on in

modern English, of course, but the quaint old custom which created it has long since been forgotten. It is uncertain whether the devil entered Iceland from English or from Low German. He was virtually unknown in the old saga times but eventually found his way in with Christianity. *Djöfull*, the Icelandic form of the word, may be from A.S. *deofol*, but some authorities refer it to Low German. In either case, it goes back ultimately, through Latin to the Greek *diabolos* "accuser". Similar debate prevails as to whether *olmusa* "alms" should be regarded as an English or a Continental contribution. The original is, of course, the Greek *eleemosyne*.

Although the main impetus to the Icelandic vocabulary of the church came by way of Old English, there was a certain amount of borrowing direct from Latin itself, the ecclesiastical tongue *par excellence*. Thus the medieval development of church organization and procedure gave *legáti* "legate" (L. *legatus*); *lektor* "reader" (L. *lector*); *lektari* "lectern" (L. *lectorium*); *lektía* "lesson" (L. *lectio*); *sakrament* "sacrament" (L. *sacramentum*); *sekventia* "a sequence", part of a chant in the mass (L. *sequentia*); *vigilia* "a vigil" (L. *vigilia*); and *skapular* "scapular" (L. *scapulare*). The eminence of Latin in the church schools of the Middle Ages no doubt accounts for such terms as *texti* "a text" (LL. *textus*); *annáll* "annal, record, history" (L. *annalis*); *titull* "a dot, abbreviation" (L. *titulus*); *still* "style" (L. *stilus*); *punktur* "point" (L. *punctum*); and *stúdera* "to study" (L. *studere*). -----

Nor are we to imagine that Icelandic was in all cases simply content to borrow its religious terminology from the peoples with whom it came in

(Continued on page 54)



## *And Then What?*

A sketch from a group of short stories by Elinborg Lárusdóttir, published in 1935.

Translated by Jakobina Johnson

The hay-making crew of Vatn are raking up and bringing under cover the last of the season's crop on the vivid-green river banks and lakeside stretches, from which the farm gets its name. It is late summer and towards the close of evening.

There is not a breath of wind. It is one of those still summer evenings when nature seems to doze off and relax after a strenuous day. Nothing disturbs the peace and quietude except the alluring murmur of the river, and this, also, is conducive to sleep, like a soft lullaby.

The birds alone continue in their wanderings, uttering calls and cries over lake and lea.

The last train of pack-horses is homeward bound. The folk are gathering up their gear and salvaging the last remnants of dry grass, bringing them together in one place.

"We can take this bit home anytime," says farmer Sveinn, as he packs it with his rake and cleans up all around it.

"And small difference it will make!" puts in one of the two maids. She is called Gunsa. She is tall and slim, with a long face and light-gold hair. She accompanies her remark with a slight backward jerk of her head.

"No questioning your wisdom," says hired-man Siggí. "Easy to tell you have never fed the flock in winter". Siggí is large and burly, with ungainly movements; his face is red and weather-beaten. He is used to life in the open.

"Oh no", replies Gunsa with a drawl, "I hope for a different destiny".

"She looks for something better and more useful—that young woman", puts

in Björg. "Gunsa would consider feeding the dear creatures a trivial occupation".

Björg is middle-aged. She leans on her rake. Her face is almost hidden by a large wimple that is knotted under the chin. Grim, the old farm-hand comes up with a wisp of hay between his hands.

"I fear the raking up has been carelessly done in places, my dear master. Your father wouldn't have approved of it as a good job".—this with a side-long glance at Gunsa.

Farmer Sveinn grins a little. "Tis true, you cannot be too careful. Each blade of grass seems mighty precious, when the supply is low and the spring slow in coming".

No one dreams of interrupting when the master speaks—not even Gunsa. But she can't control herself—she gives Siggí a sudden jab with her elbow. He lets out a groan and gives her an angry look, but she bursts out laughing.

"Now that ~~was~~ something! I wasn't sure that you were alive"—says Gunsa and keeps on laughing. "You need a little help or you'll pass out completely".

"Let's rest for a moment before we take up the trail for home", said Sveinn, sitting down with his back against the hay cock.

"I don't object". Gunsa sits down with a bang close to Siggí. This is too much for him—he moves over a bit.

"Is that so!" Gunsa teasingly moves closer. She crosses her hands and her legs and looks at him. Then she appears to be taking in the view.—"not

bad", she remarks with a tilt of her head.

"What's not so bad?" asks Siggi in surprise—for Gunsa never has time to reflect and soliloquize.

"The mountains", pretending deep thought—then adds, "well placed in the landscape. Perhaps the picture might be improved—but I'm not so sure".

"Enough!" exclaims Björg in a tone of indignation as she gives Gunsa a scathing look. But Siggi regards her half-way in admiration. She really is good company when she gets going. Not much sense to some of her talk, to be sure, but one has to laugh. Laughter prolongs your life, he's heard—so it's something.

The master makes no remark. He is the farmer born, appraising meadow and pasture, and content with things as they are. No desire to change things around. He feels incapable of improving these surroundings.

Gunsa keeps on, with a glance at Björg sitting opposite and eyeing them now and again, "Do you think I hid away here in the country for the summer to keep silent the livelong day like the rest of you? Just work, work and no freedom of speech? What a life!" She moves closer to Siggi, as if for defense against Björg. "I demand freedom of speech. I feel just as free to find fault with the natural surroundings as other things that go amiss".

"You are by no means the first one whom providence has been unable to please, though few go quite so far. They grumble over the weather, eruptions and earthquakes, and the barren years. But nature, the landscape—that's close approach to blasphemy!"

Gunsa pretends not to hear, and goes on, "I'll tell you, I never enter Hotel Borg without taking notice of the de-

corations. I feel that I could have become a master at decorating and arranging. I am really born with artistic talent. What do you think Siggi? She turns her head to get a good look at him.

"Yes", Siggi replies, although he is not quite clear on what constitutes art, and not sure what answer to make. Gunsa challenges with a slight frown, as much as to say, "so this is your gift of appraisal".

Siggi reads her face and hastens to remark, "Yes, yes—I am perfectly sure you are a real artist along those lines". Gunsa smiles and lowers her glance.

"Now I've heard enough!" says Björg with a look of disapproval at Gunsa, but pity at Siggi, as though he were endangered by Gunsa's wiles—poor lad.

"You should see me dancing, Siggi. The young men fairly fight over me—so attractive and pleasing—just right! Then there are the booths for relaxation and refreshment—" Siggi takes it all in. A good looking girl, with a fine figure, is Gunsa.

"You must visit Hotel Borg, Siggi, and see how things are done there. You would be enchanted for the first time in your life. I doubt very much that you would recognize me in all my finery".

"Fie", thinks Björg. "She has forgotten she was brought up an orphan".

"Then there is the rouge and the lipstick which all the girls, who know anything, use. Makes your lips so red and fragrant—a modern wonder. And all the Beauty Salons—increasing in number and perfection! You come out simply transfigured! Complexion changed; hair any color—blonde, black, green or purple! It is no longer in good taste in Reykjavik to be just your natural self in looks!"

"Most likely this craziness costs a

pretty penny", says Björg.

"Oh, it's fairly reasonable", Gunsa quickly replies.

"Maybe it's free—like some of those cures you see advertised in the papers", from Björg.

"No—the more's the pity. But I hope it will come to that some day, for culture is fast advancing. Both men and women are beginning to recognize the importance of good looks in a woman—on a par with her ability to cook".

Siggi's eyes have taken on a strange new far-away look: green hair—never before has he heard of such nonsense. But he dares not venture a remark. Gunsa is an amusing person.

Gunsa now lowers her voice and speaks to herself, "Maybe I won't have to get myself fixed up when I get back to Reykjavík!" She turns toward Siggi,—"what is this? Siggi—fallen asleep! No life—just a flickering flame."

But Siggi is admiring her. "What a girl. In a class by herself is Gunsa". He chews his tobacco and spits now and then. The master, who has not put in a word, now shows signs of setting out for home, but Grim is missing.

"What has become of the old codger, inquires Björg.

"If I can make things out", says Gunsa, "the old fellow is creeping along on all fours down by the lake".

"Yes, no mistaking him", says Sveinn.

"What is he up to?" inquires Björg.

"Who can understand that", says Gunsa. "Shall we not set out—I'm famished". There, he is upright once more—for a wonder. He's almost here".

"What were you doing down there my good Grim? asks Sveinn.

"I'll tell you, good master, I was looking for the stopper from a thermos bottle. I lost it last summer".

All are looking at Grim, but no one speaks. Finally Gunsa explodes with laughter. "Not quite right in the head, the old fellow". Grim ignores her.

"I was sa blamed sorry to be the one to lose it. I've kept it in mind ever since and looked for it—though only in spare moments, of course. I was cutting hay down on the banks, and the mistress sent me some coffee in the thermos bottle. It's deucedly provoking not to find the stopper, for there it is bound to be!"

Old Grim scratches his head in bewilderment and looks at his master.

"Do not let it continue to worry you, my good Grim", says farmer Sveinn.

"From your father—Peace be with him—I learned to be systematic in all things. I was no bigger than so—when I came to stay and have lived here ever since. "Each article in its place" was his watchword. No tossing the gear into passages and disregarding all rules—as the so-called chore boys from the towns do".

"True, every word", says the master as he pats him on the shoulder. "We would be better off with more people like you, Grim".

Björg adjusts her wimple. Gunsa looks at Siggi and bursts out once more, pulling him by the sleeve and setting out for home.

"Don't you think the master is getting just as outmoded as Grim?"—and she clicks her tongue. "Fortunately they are both nearing the end of the trail—and then—"

## Hobnobbing With Hobbies

### *In The Language Of The Lathe*

By CAROLINE GUNNARSSON

"People who have a hobby live longer". I'm not sure that Leifur Summers actually spoke these words to me, but at the thought of him they do echo through my mind and strongly color my picture of a youthful, genial personality. If they are not his spoken words then he must be the living embodiment of the truth they contain. Certainly, it is hard to believe that this lithe, eager chap has accumulated years enough to be able to look all the way back to 1907 for one of his first triumphs as a craftsman in wood.

Yet, in the lovely Summers home on Queenston Street, Winnipeg, an oak desk and chair occupy a place of honour. Over forty years ago, when Mr. Summers was attending Wellington School, the desk won first prize in a school exhibition. There is about it a look of professional smoothness and finish that, even to a critical observer, belies the fact that it was created by a youngster taking manual training at school.

The oak book case with double glass doors that stands in a spare bedroom is also a childhood achievement. Leifur Summers made this as a china cabinet for his mother when he was fourteen years old, but when she died it was converted into a book case. It has a carved border in conventional design. Of simple style, it is still in good taste and can take its place with well made furniture of its period.

Leifur Summers was born at Carberry, Manitoba, the son of Eiríkur Sumaríðason (Summers) and the former Thorbjörg Jónsdóttir Fjeldsted. He moved to Winnipeg with his parents

as a child, and attended Wellington School in the West End of Winnipeg. In 1915 he married Sigurlaug (Lil) Anderson.

He got his start in business with the T. Eaton Co. and has stayed with them. His present position is that of Supervisor of Services. On the twenty-fifth anniversary of his service the Company tendered a banquet to the Summers and presented them with an elaborate silver tray and cocktail glasses. Leifur also received a beautifully engraved wrist watch. Then the Company threw in a two month's holiday with pay, and the Summers were off to California on the frolic of a lifetime. They were well looked after in this Eden of America, too. The Stoneson brothers and other close relatives saw to that.

Leifur Summers' earlier adult years were filled with the upward climb in his job, the pleasant task of establishing a home and the normal outside interests of an active, popular young couple. With golf in summer and various other affiliations in winter, there were no empty moments crying to be occupied by a hobby. Then, on a summer holiday at Kenora, Ontario, the Summers ran into Leifur's former instructor from Wellington School.

"And are you still doing woodwork?" queried Mr. Whiteford.

"He hasn't any high power tools", Mrs. Summers defended her husband.

"He doesn't need high power tools. That husband of yours can make anything", was the reply.

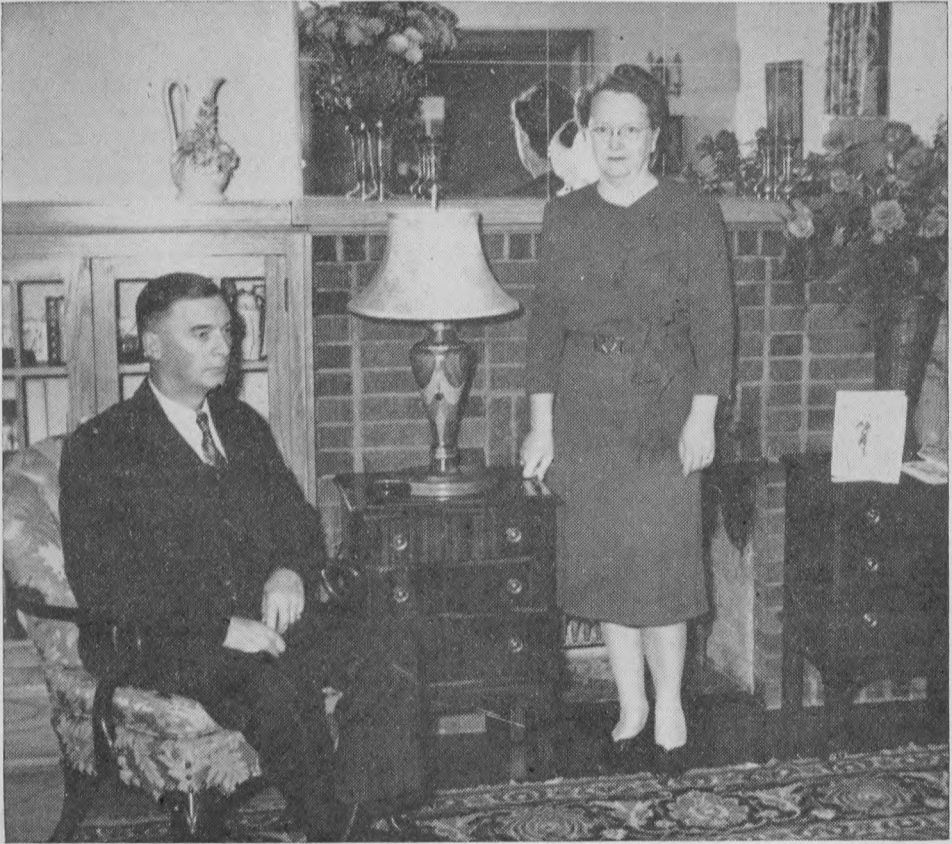
Perhaps it is the way of teachers. Perhaps the voice that spoke the simple words betrayed some of the inspiring



ardour of a teacher who thirty years before had discovered talent in a pupil. At any rate, Mr. Whiteford scored. The old pupil went back and applied himself to his homework.

The mahogany pirate's chest he made that year sacrifices nothing in beauty to its sturdy perfection. Fashioned

the Niakwa Golf Club he went back to his hobby with the absorption of an addict. He would pore over blue prints and ask his wife, "What would you like me to make, Lil?" Exquisite furniture began to find its way into every room of the home, while friends and family received precious gifts of



The Summer's living room, showing the two commodes and one lamp.

entirely by hand, with dovetail joints, inlaid motives and rope handles, it looks the authentic stronghold of a pirate's ill-gotten gain.

After this no encouragement was needed. The artist's fingers tingled to the task they were made for, and each fall when Mr. Summers had bid the annual farewell to his fellows in

woodcraft as tokens of affection from the Summers. A lathe and other high power tools were finally installed in the basement and numerous improvements were added to the little workshop from time to time. Mr. Summers was losing his heart to a hobby.

"Leifur, I've made a cup of coffee!"

his wife would call an hour or so before midnight.

"Just another five minutes. I just need five minutes more, Lil". And that answer would keep floating up the stairs at intervals for an hour or more. For such is the strange alchemy of the human. Only for a given number of hours can we toil in submission to outside compulsion without yielding to fatigue, but let the drive come from within, and strenuous effort of mind and body becomes a natural form of relaxation. The free mind whets itself on the problems of a task it loves, and goes back to the daily grind rejuvenated and refreshed.

Mr. Summers has made countless toy barrows for children and one train engine that is really a work of art. A little boy dearly cherishes this gift from his uncle and has kept it like new through the years.

His beautiful hostess trays are coveted treasures of many a homemaker. When the old stairways in Eaton's store were torn down, Leifur acquired some of the fine mahogany spindles that held up the railing. These are glued together into a block, shaped into rounded trays and polished to a soft, smooth lustre. Money can't buy such a hostess tray, for here is a man who has never sold any of his handiwork. That, to him, is sacrilege. His hobby is part of him—the best he has to give, and he insists on giving it, to betoken friendship and esteem or in support of a worthy cause. The hostess trays have aided many a church enterprise and charity.

On a table in the hall two daintily shaped vases attracted me as particularly finely glazed pottery. I picked them up carefully and found them to be, not pottery, but the artist's own creations of bleached wood with doweled handles.

It must have taken both technical precision and an artist's loving care to fashion the two commodes in the living room. Here the deep red glow of seasoned mahogany and simple, graceful lines flow together like rhythm in a lyric.

Mrs. Summers dotes on the two graceful table lamps her husband made for her, which are placed one on each commode. Seventy-two pieces of light and dark wood were assembled from the centre outward and glued into a solid block, the pieces so arranged that when the lamp had been fashioned the alternate tones of wood form an intricate inlaid pattern which stands out.

Very quaint and unique is the little low boy in a bedroom with fretwork overlay.

Mr. Summers is an expert on the texture and quality of wood, and talks about the different varieties as though they were living fellows with character and personal charms and perversities. Mahogany, for instance! There are over one hundred varieties of Mahogany, inheriting their peculiarities of character from the soil that gives them birth and other conditions of the country native to each particular tribe of Mahogany.

Nor is he a mere interpreter of blue prints or just the boss of his high power tools. He spends hours polishing his work with various grades of sandpaper, then has it finished with a lacquer spray. This is the only operation he leaves to others, for it must be done in a dust-proof room for perfect results and perfection, no less, is good enough for Mr. Summers.

My heart, though, went out to the little book ends that were shown me toward the end of the interview. Made of light colored wood, they are adorned with picturesque inlay which is obtain-

ed ready for the purpose. But it was the perfectly wrought little wooden book of the artist's own creation, tossed on the base of each book end with graceful abandon, that warmed me inside. It just lies there, the little vol-

ume, waiting to be picked up again. We are not all creators, but the truth is in us just the same. Real art reveals us to ourselves—in the language of the poet or the language of the lathe.

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## IN THE NEWS

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Just before Christmas, the opera tenor, Sigurdur Skagfield, who some years ago traveled widely and sang in the Icelandic settlements in North America, arrived in Reykjavik from Germany, having encountered various misadventures at the hands of the Third Reich.

In 1940 when Germany overran Norway Skagfield was singing at the opera in Oldenburg, and was hauled up before the Gestapo for adverse comments. While singing in Danzig, 1941-42, the Director begged him, for the sake of the Opera, not to refuse any longer to "Heil Hitler" on festive occasions when Nazi officers attended the performance. But his non-conformist tendencies nevertheless landed him in an internment camp. At that time he says, the food was good and fairly plentiful, as Germany was systematically squeezing the best from the conquered countries.

Skagfield was released and went to Oslo in 1943 to sing at the German opera there. He was arraigned for speaking Norwegian to the other performers, and interned. He was taken to Berlin in 1944 but released through the efforts of the Director of the Opera at Regensburg. At this time Goebbels decreed that all operas be closed and the singers taken to work in munition factories. Sigurdur Skagfield refused and was sent to a concentration camp, directed from Buckenwald.

He was released on April 12, 1945, when the Americans arrived. At that time he weighed 108 pounds and had to

be hospitalized. When he came to Hamborg he found it a shambles. Whole sections of the city were devastated, with nothing standing but the tall factory chimneys. Millions of people were living in military huts. But strange as it may seem musical activities there are almost back to normal, and in place of the ruined concert halls new ones are being opened.

Mr. Skagfield has just completed writing an autobiography, which encompasses the years from 1920 to 1947, and will be published in three volumes. While in Iceland he gave a recital in the Cathedral church in Reykjavik, assisted by the eminent pianist-composer, Páll Ísólfsson.

Shortly after the war Skagfield was married to Inga Hagen, a Swedish singer who is at present in Copenhagen.

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### INVITES STUDENTS

The internationally known Ladies' College of Bryn Mawr, in the United States has extended an invitation to the Women's Student Society of Iceland to send four students to take a course at Bryn Mawr for the 1948-49 season. Tuition and board will be provided free and in addition students will receive a \$900.00 subsidy. In order to qualify students must have completed 3-4 years of university education.

## *Manitoba Music Festival*

By MISS ETHEL A. KINLEY

ED. NOTE: Miss Ethel Kinley, who wrote the following article, for the Icelandic Canadian, served for a number of years as music superintendent in the Winnipeg Schools, and for 15 years as conductor of the Winnipeg Boys' Choir. She also adjudicates choral and vocal music at festivals in various towns in Manitoba. She is an active member of several musical organizations, such as, The Wednesday Morning Musicales, and the Women's Musical Club. Other cultural pursuits get their share of Miss Kinley's attention and she is a member of the Women's Canadian Club and the Women's Voluntary Bureau. At present she is arranging a conducted tour for adults, to England and Europe, which will be accomplished through co-operation with the Overseas Educational League. Miss Kinley will be leaving shortly for Halifax, to give lectures at the summer music course given at Dalhousie University.

What magic that name evokes for thousands of Winnipeg people! It comes with our wayward spring when Winnipeg streets appear at their worst and when the weather is completely unpredictable.

Oblivious alike to scenery and weather, festival executives hasten from their places of business, to "oil the machinery" which keeps the festival running so smoothly. The efficiency with which the whole organization functions, makes it all seem so easy. Little does the public realize the unselfish devotion and endless hours of work given by this group of business men headed by the secretary of the Men's Musical Club, R. W. Cooke, and the president, George S. Mathieson. Mr. Mathieson's name as an authority on the marketing of grain is widely recognized, but his claim to a place in the Hall of Fame is based upon the unique part he has played in the organization and amazing growth of the Manitoba Musical Competition Festival and its offspring, the Canadian Festival chain, that now extends from Halifax to Vancouver.

We cannot forget the audiences of enthusiasts who day after day follow the progress of the festival.

Some of these have watched the growth and increasing scope of the festival since its inception, nearly thirty

years ago, and they confess with pride that their discriminating appreciation of good music and of artistic performances, has kept pace with the rising general standards of the festival.

There is magic in our festival, but the quality of the magic depends upon the attitudes which parents and teachers have established in the minds of the competitors. If the competition be regarded by them as a highly stimulating phase of a liberal education and not merely as a "sporting event", or as an advertising agency, it has real virtue. Things such as self-discipline, humility, sincerity, courtesy, high standard of taste and an abiding interest in fine music, will be the real prizes achieved.

### **False Attitude**

If, on the other hand competitors' attitudes be false, if winning is the primary objective, then the magic is black indeed. For such individuals, the failure to achieve first place is a major catastrophe creating jealousy and discouragement, while "success" is equally disastrous, because it is apt to create a false sense of superiority and a complacency that is even more pitiable.

It is important that the public should realize that "marks" are purely relative in their values and are in no way comparable to marks given in music examinations. In the latter case the aim of



the examiners is to evaluate the knowledge and performances of candidates in relation to a set standard of requirements, while the aim of the adjudicators is, primarily, to foster continued interest and to encourage renewed effort. Hence the comparatively limited range of percentages awarded, as between the best and the poorest in a given class and the quite different scale of marking employed as between different competitions, for "the wind is tempered to the shorn lamb".

No regular attendant from the early years of the festival to the present, can fail to note what it has done to bring poetry to large groups of people through the numerous vocal and choral classes, and by means of the printed programmes which contain the words of all set test pieces. What a wealth of children's verse has thus been sent into countless homes, and how many thousands of children have awakened these poems to life, through quickened imagination and the expressive beauty of words. Who could forget "the twinkling lights" and "the laughter that softly lingers there" as sung by the East Kil-donan children or the poignant beauty of "And it's oh, in my heart that I wish he may not die", of the Prince Edward children in the same competition.

What patron and participant of the early years of the festival can forget the vivid way in which the colors, the rhythms, the cadences and the music of our English tongue were so vividly demonstrated to us by three adjudicators in particular, H. Plunket Greene an Irishman, Campbell McInnes, an Englishman and Sir Hugh Robertson, a Scot. To those of us, whose experience with the spoken word had been largely confined to our midwestern tuneless, colorless and slovenly speech

they brought a new revelation of beauty of which we were only slightly aware. The teaching of those three adjudicators followed by the inspiration and lucid illustrations given over a period of years by the matchless Dr. J. F. Staton, have left a marked impress upon the teaching in class-rooms, studios and rehearsal halls, with the result that the improvement in English as sung has been phenomenal.

Unfortunately, it seems to some observers, that we need fresh inspiration for there has been some deterioration in the purity of diction which may rise in part, from a false idea of nationalism. Surely true lovers of Canada should wish our speech to possess all the qualities of variety in color, of significance, of eloquence and of beauty, inherent in the English tongue, and which, on this continent bids fair to be forgotten. Elsie Fogarty in her book, "Speech Craft" has this to say in that connection:

"When a nation has cared for speech and made this art a thing of great pride and honour to the whole country, that nation has left a gift of beauty to the world, and the men and women in it have true cause for pride.

... Other arts follow on this gift of beautiful speech, and men's intercourse with his fellows is easy because they are not afraid of being unable to speak; controlled, because they are doing a thing that they have taken pains to do perfectly; inspiring, because all men take delight in hearing and doing beautiful things".

The truth of Miss Fogarty's words was beautifully demonstrated several times in the course of our recent festival. In one case it was the Lord Selkirk

Grade 6 class-room that wrought such magic as they sang the Gaelic tune "A Fairy Lullaby". The gossamer texture of the tone, the entrancing purity of their vowels, the delicate stressing of words and the poignancy of mood, created such a hushed stillness in the great hall full of children and grown-ups, that even the most elusive leprechaun could but linger to catch the last dying notes.

The 1948 festival is now "passed and gone", but its music will, "vibrate in the memory". So the haunting strains of "Dream Angus" as sung by the Mulvey Grade I to VI Folk song choir, the

sparkling consonants of the William White Grade IV. class, and the velvet tone, the melting phrases and the subtle stresses and nuances of the Lord Selkirk Grade XI. girls, will linger with the listeners long after the identity of the "winner" of this or that trophy has been forgotten. "The flowers of the spirit", have flourished in many classrooms and studios and "winds from a healthy land" have fanned them into life, and "Some influence from noble works" has fallen upon the ear of thousands of our young. May these influences reap green the natural "love of beauty" in their souls.

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### DELIVERS JUDGMENT IN FRENCH

It was interesting and of some significance that, the other day, **Hon Mr. Justice Joseph T. Thorson**, president of the Exchequer Court, delivered judgment entirely in French, in a Quebec case he heard recently wherein all the evidence was given in the French language. Few, if any, English-speaking judges of Canadian courts would attempt the double feat which Justice Thorson performed with such quiet efficiency.

Mr. Thorson is quite a linguist. He was born in Winnipeg of Icelandic parents. His elder daughter some time ago married a young Canadian flier of Greek parentage, in North Bay.

Mr. Justice Thorson was in Winnipeg recently to preside at the initial Winnipeg meeting of the Canadian Foundation of which he is president. At this meeting he stressed the need for promotion of cultural activity in Canada, and told a group of prominent Winnipeg business men the aims and plans of the foundation.

The two main aims of the foundation are, he said to promote wider und-

erstanding of the Canadian way of life both at home and abroad, and to encourage Canadian literature, art, music and other cultural activities.

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**Miss Audrey Fridfinnson**, a Social Worker with the Family Bureau of Winnipeg, returned recently from a motor trip through the eastern part of the United States. As representative of the Family Bureau she attended the International Conference of Social Workers where delegates from 35 countries met, and the 75th American Conference of Social Workers, held during the last week in April, and attended by 7,000 people.

Under discussion at these conferences were: Immigration and the displaced persons of Europe; Care of the mentally defective; Training for the blind and deaf; Group activities for children; Care of the neglected child; Marital difficulties; Housing problems, and Public financial assistance.

Miss Fridfinnson is a daughter of Mrs. Bertha Fridfinnson of Winnipeg and the late Bill Fridfinnson.

## ELMA GISLASON RECITAL



Mrs. Elma Gislason

Mrs. Elma Gislason, who is a pupil of J. Roberto Wood and soloist in the First Federated Unitarian church, gave her debut recital June 1, in the church, to a large and enthusiastic audience. The proceeds of the concert will be used for the church organ fund. Her accompanist was Dorothy Rossell. Edna-Mary Henderson, accompanied by Allen Borbridge gave two groups of violin solos.

Mrs. Gislason presented a program of wide variety, ranging from modern and romantic lyrics to the classical, and operatic arias.

S.R.M., music critic of the Winnipeg Tribune offers the singer some very constructive criticism of a type that is always gratefully received by the sincere artist. At the same time he lauds her interpretive resources and the "appealing" quality of her voice. He says in part:

"She invariably captured the mood, style and character of the music presented Tuesday, proving herself on con-

genial ground in the classics, as well as the romantic and modern lyrics on her program.

"Her best work, as perhaps natural, came in her final group when she sang native Icelandic songs. In these she excelled, giving them tonal purity, restraint, moving interpretive appeal and investing them with characteristic and personal charm."

Mr. Maley also pointed out that:

"Mrs. Gislason impressed one greatly by her artistry when she sang recently as guest artist on the program of original music by Icelandic composers of Manitoba. She is a singer who projects an atmosphere of culture, charm, good taste and musicality."

Mrs. Gislason, a young housewife with four small children, has proved that she is endowed with limitless resources, physical and spiritual. Besides her strenuous musical activities which entail numerous engagements and long hours of practice, she does her own housework and makes the clothes for the children, being proficient at sewing. In addition she operates a kindergarten school in the morning at her home, with an attendance, so far, of ten little pre-school tots. This she undertook partly to augment the family finances, which was necessitated by the temporary ill health of Mr. Gislason and "partly for fun", she gaily admits. She loves children and has a knack of making them feel happy and at home. During the summer she plans to take a course in Kindergarten work, and start with a larger class in the fall.

Elma is a daughter of Ingolfur and Maria Arnason, formerly of Glenboro and Cypress River. She is married to Ragnar, son of Hjalmar Gislason, and the late Mrs. Gislason, of Winnipeg.

## *Rev. R. Marteinsson Honoured*

The dean of the Icelandic Lutheran clergy in America, Rev Rúnólfur Marteinsson of Winnipeg, was signally honoured on the 30th day of May this year, when Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

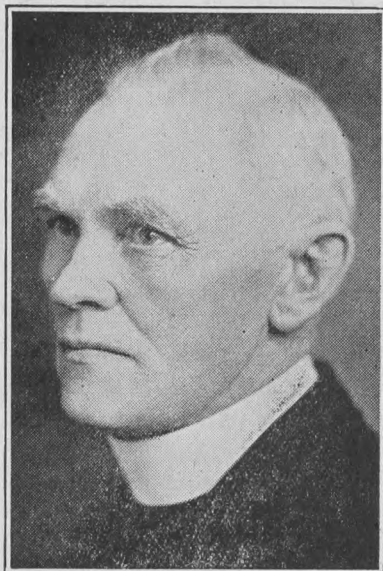
For the past fifty years, Dr. Marteinsson has played a prominent part in the religious and educational life of the Icelandic communities in this country, both as pastor and teacher. In the field of education his contribution has been most significant, for as a lecturer at Wesley College for three years and as the principal of the Jón Bjarnason Academy for a quarter of a century, he taught and strongly influenced a far greater number of Icelandic students than any other man on this continent.

The history of the Jón Bjarnason Academy has yet to be written and its value to our cultural life properly assessed. When that history is written Dr. Marteinsson's work will be judged, for in the public mind at least, he has always typified that school and all that it stood for. He was its zealous and untiring champion from its inception in 1913 until its untimely end in 1940. During this time he fought on one hand the active opposition of those who, rightly and wrongly, considered the parochial school an anomaly, in the Canadian educational system, and on the other the indifference of those who, though well disposed, showed little desire to assume the financial burdens incidental to the maintenance of a private school.

Dr. Marteinsson fought a losing battle, as far as the school was concerned, but he fought hard and well for he fought for the perservation of those things dearest to him; the evangelical

Lutheran faith and the language of his fathers. Since the death of Dr. Jón Bjarnason, these causes have not had an abler defender among our people.

Dr. Marteinsson was born in Iceland on the 26th of november 1870 and



Dr. Rúnólfur Marteinsson

came to Winnipeg with his parents in 1883. He moved with them to New Iceland the next year but returned to Winnipeg in 1885 where he stayed for the next four years at the home of Dr. Jón Bjarnason. During this time he attended the public schools and the Normal school but in 1890 he enrolled at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., graduating in 1895. In 1896 he entered the General Council Seminary in Chicago, completed the four year course in three years and graduated in 1899 with the highest marks that had ever been given by that institution. He was ordained by Dr. Jón Bjarnason in the First Lutheran



Church of Winnipeg on May 7th, 1899.

After being ordained, Dr. Marteinsson served the First Lutheran church for a few months in the temporary absence of Dr. Bjarnason, but in 1901 he moved to New Iceland where he remained until 1910. His able and conscientious service to our people in those difficult days is still well remembered and his feats of endurance in covering his huge parish, under the most trying conditions, have become legendary.

In 1910 Dr. Marteinsson became a lecturer in Icelandic at Wesley College Winnipeg, and when the Jón Bjarnason Academy was founded in 1913 he became its first principal. Except for brief interludes, he was principal of that school until it closed its doors in 1940. Since then he has been active in Home Mission work for the Icelandic Lutheran Synod and served as pastor to its congregation in Vancouver and elsewhere.

In 1900 Dr. Marteinsson married Ingunn Bardal of Winnipeg. Throughout the years she has been his faithful companion and strongest supporter.

They have four children, Gudrun (Mrs. Hill) of Armstrong, B. C.; Jón Lárus of Hudson, Ont.; Theodis, married to Dr. Payne, Superintendent of Ninette Sanatorium, Man.; and Hermann Brandur Thomas, now a doctor in Vancouver, B. C.

Dr. Marteinsson's contribution to our Icelandic community has not been entirely confined to church and school. He has long been an active and honoured worker in the Icelandic National League and in the Good Templar Lodge in Manitoba. He has also written numerous articles for various Icelandic publications and is unquestionably one of our greatest authorities on the early history of the Icelanders in New Iceland and Winnipeg. The Icelandic government conferred on him the Order of the Falcon in 1939.

As this is written, preparations are under way to honour Dr. Marteinsson in his own city. Graduates of the Jón Bjarnason Academy, who number many hundreds, are anxious to show their appreciation to the distinguished teacher and clergyman. **H. Th.**

## *The Icelandic Canadian*

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Reykjavík Iceland

## *Two Charming Visitors*

By **HOLMFRIDUR DANIELSON**

---

"Thus endeth the first lesson", could have been the comment of the two Misses Frederickson, after they had bought a new car in San Francisco, a 1948 Ford Convertible, taken a few driving lessons, and 2000-odd miles later rolled smoothly up to the curb at the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg.

After this first lesson which took them through Yellowstone Park, the Grand Tetons, and into a terrific storm in Dakota, whose driving hail and dramatic display of thunder and lightning frightened them almost out of their pretty shoes, the girls should feel quite proficient as drivers.

The two young ladies are Florence and Evelyn, daughters of Mrs. Ellen Frederickson and the late Frank Frederickson who passed away in 1942. He was a brother of Mrs. Halldor Thorolfson of Winnipeg whose son the well known conductor-composer, Frank Thorolfson is at present studying advanced Musicology in Chicago. Florence and Evelyn were born in San Diego and received their education in California, Florence graduating from Berkley University in 1936.

When interviewed at the Fort Garry Hotel the girls were enthusiastic about this unique way of spending their three weeks' holiday, quite unconcerned about the hazardous mountain driving, "But the electric storm was quite an awesome experience", they said, "as we never have them in San Francisco".

"There is not much of interest to report about me", said the attractive younger sister, Evelyn, but one soon discovers that she has managed already to crowd quite a bit of action into her short life.

After two years of College she left to serve as Sergeant in the U. S. Marine Corp from 1943 — 45. Training at Camp Le Juene, Carolina, she was later stationed in Virginia where she travelled around with the U.S.O. Camp Shows, mostly writing scripts and also taking part in the show. Later she served in Officers' Personnel, and on radio broadcasts from the camp.

After the war she came with her mother to visit relatives in Winnipeg and went to Minneapolis for a prolonged stay with her mother's people there. Coming back to San Francisco, she took a position with "Western Advertising Magazine", which has an international circulation. She is Editorial Assistant and writes by-lined articles on various aspects of advertising.

"Now ask Florence if she can't match this exciting record" and Evelyn laughs gaily, as we turn our attention to the poised pretty lady in the trim navy suit.

**Florence Frederickson**, after graduating, went into the advertising business, first in the advertising department of Livingstone Bros., San Francisco, and later with the Advertising Agency of "Garfield and Guild".

In 1943 she joined the American Red Cross, serving in various parts of the Pacific, for a year in Australia, six months in New Guinea, and then in the Philippines. While there Florence decided that the Philippino soldiers who are music lovers and almost all of them able to play some musical instrument, should have better facilities for entertainment. So she and another girl put their heads together and pretty soon, with the enthusiastic help of the boys, an "elegant" club house was er-

ected, made from cocoanut logs, bamboo rods and palm leaves over tarpaulin. It was ceremoniously named "Bahai-ing Kasayahau" (House of Happiness). The boys were adept at making decorations out of palm leaves. For the Thangsgiving Festival they made rows of realistic looking wheat stalks by twisting and kneading a palm leaf into a full head of kernels complete with silky tassels, (from the ravelled leaf-edge).

"But best of all, we had real Jack-O-Lanterns with candles inside, made by hollowing out green cocoanuts, which are orange in color".

"Did you learn any native language" we asked hopefully. — "Yes, a little of the "tagalog", which is the Northern dialect of Luzon Island".

The trip back from Manila to San Francisco in July, 1945, took 30 days.

Once back in the States Miss Frederickson went into advertising in a big way, becoming Advertising and Publicity manager for "Alice of California" the largest dress manufacturing house in the state. Situated in San Francisco and established twenty years ago by an Icelander named Kris Guðnason, and now operated mostly by his son, it has a large designing staff and holds fashion shows in its own show rooms. The exclusive Press showings are attended by many of the famous Hollywood stars.

This spring Miss Frederickson took her air-born entourage of Fashions, including four professional models, to ten of the main cities on the West Coast, she herself composing and delivering all the commentary for the shows.

"But the most thrilling experience of my life was last fall when forty-eight clothing manufacturers of the Manufacturers' Association, chartered two planes to take a fashion show to Paris, France. Movie star, Joan Leslie made

the trip with us and modelled in the show along with nine professional models". Miss Frederickson tells a story vividly and the magnificent spectacle is re-enacted for our benefit.

The show was staged for two weeks in the George V. Hotel, Paris, and all the floral decorations were flown from California, the flowers being treated with a phosphorescent powder which created a fairyland of iridescent color when the lights were dimmed. Miss Frederickson wrote the script and delivered the commentary in English, for the whole show which lasted for three hours. The commentary was also given in French.

At the Opening Show, the famous French Couturiers, who resented this invasion into their sacred field of fashion, were conspicuous by their absence, but sent their scalps instead, to denote their defeat. The resourceful Americans, however, soon gave them full assurance that the whole venture was purely a publicity stunt and definitely non-competitive in nature, and for the next showing the Famous Names and their adherents came 'en masse'! All the Embassies, too, wanted tickets, and finally a large police force had to be in attendance to quell the riots as huge crowds tried to obtain admission.

"It was just too bad", laughs Miss Frederickson, 'if any of the personnel of the Show ventured outside without having admission tickets, as no amount of wheedling and desperate gestures would get them in again past the determined force of the French Law'!

The Americans were by now the "toast of the town" and the completely captivated French Couturiers, metaphorically speaking, were "kissing the hem of their garments". They were graciously entertained at the home of Madame Schiaparelli and others. So delighted is the French 'Couture' with

this attempted exchange of ideas that they plan to return the compliment, and will give an exclusive showing of French styles next October at the San Francisco Opera House. Fashion Creators from all over the country will converge upon San Francisco on this occasion for this will be the only showing given in America.

Come next October, and it is our guess that the vivacious, efficient Miss Florence Frederickson will be a busy person!

Florence and Evelyn live with their mother in San Francisco. They enjoy playing golf and travelling, especially by air. They left Winnipeg June 12th, going home by way of Glacier Park.

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## *Eight-Year Old Virtuoso*

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On the 15th of March, 1948 the name of Iceland was conspicuous in the pages of the London dailies. The reason for this was a diminutive maid, **Pórunn Jóhannsdóttir**, who had captivated the London audiences with her brilliant and accomplished performance on the piano, when she was featured as guest artist with the London Junior Orchestra, March 12, and the London Symphony Orchestra, March 13. Both concerts were held in the Central Hall of the Royal Academy of

Music, and both orchestras were under the direction of Ernest Reed.

Each night, as she repeatedly stepped out on the stage to receive the thunderous ovation of the capacity audiences, little Pórunn's manner was a perfect blend of childish simplicity and mature graciousness, which won the hearts of her listeners. Already she is a true artist in the sense that she can completely forget and immerse herself in her art.

It is well known what high standards of perfection are required of soloists who perform with the London Symphony. That this coveted honor should fall to the lot of a child, not yet nine years old augurs well for the future of this gifted Icelandic girl, who at these two concerts was acclaimed by noted English and American music critics for her sensitive interpretation and the astounding maturity of her technique.

\* \* \*

**Inez Bjarnason** of Langruth, Man., has been elected president of Beta Gamma Chapter of Sigma Kappa sorority. Miss Bjarnason is a third year student at the University of Manitoba. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Bjarnason, Langruth, Man., and granddaughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Polson, and the late Agust Polson, pioneers at Gimli.



## OUR WAR EFFORT

### TRP. BJORN VICTOR SIGURDSON

Born at Lundar, Man., Aug. 28, 1919. Enlisted in Lord Strathcona Horse, April 1941. — Served in Canada, United Kingdom, Mediterranean area and Central Europe. Awarded the C.V.S.M. and C., British Defence Medal, Italy Star, France and Germany Ribbon, 1939-1943 Star and Victory Medal. Disch. Oct. 22, 1945.

Son of Guðmundur and Sigrun Sigurdson  
Markerville, Alta.

★



Trp. Bjorn Victor Sigurdson

★

### SIGMN. EDWIN T. GOODMUNDSON

Born at Elfros, Sask., Dec. 17, 1914. Joined the Canadian Army June 1942. — Took his basic training at Portage La Prairie, Man. Was stationed at Kingston, Ont., Halifax and Gaspe, N. S. Discharged July 24, 1944.

Son of the late Timoteus and Thorbjorg Goodmundson, Elfros, Sask.



Sigmn. E. T. Goodmundson

★

### TEC./4 JONAS HALLGRIMSON

Born at Mountain, N.D., Feb 13, 1922. Enlisted in the Signal Corps Reserve Oct. 7, 1942. Called to active duty July 5, 1943. Was assigned to 1st Radar installation and maintenance team (aviation) at Robin's Field, Ga. Served as radar repairman throughout continental U. S. Discharged Feb. 22, 1946.

Son of H. J. and Jonina (Johnson) Hallgrimson, Mountain, N. D.



T/4 Jonas Hallgrimson



**2nd Lt. Marvin  
J. Erlendson**

Middle Eastern Theatre Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

**2nd LIEUT. MARVIN J. ERLENDSON**—Born at Grafton, N. D., Sept. 29, 1917. Entered army July 1942, and sent to Miami Beach, Fla. Entered Anti-Aircraft Artillery, O.C.S. in April 1943, at Camp Davis, N. C. Graduated with aeronautical rating of pilot May 1944. Went overseas Dec. 1944, and was with the 19th Troop Carrier Squadron, T.H., until July 1945. Transferred to 9th Radar Calibration Detachment and served as B-24 pilot on Iwo Jima until Nov. 1945. Received campaign star for "Air Offensive Over Japan". Discharged Apr. 1946. Is now with the U. S. Civil Service Div. of Military Intelligence, Arlington, Va.

**SONS OF MR. EGGERT AND THE LATE MARGARET GILLIS ERLENDSON,  
GRAFTON, N. D.**



**Staff Sgt. Bertel V. Erlendson**



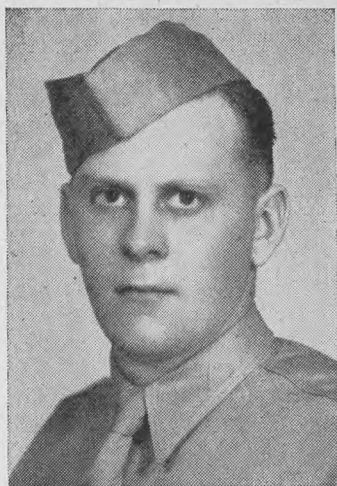
**F.O. JOHANN OLIVER**—Born at Framnes, Man., Apr. 15, 1921. Enlisted in R.C.A.F Oct. 20, 1941. Trained at Calgary, Alta., Paulson, Man., and Greenwood, N.S. Embarked for England Apr. 6, 1943. Served in Gibraltar, India, Burma and China. Returned to Canada Dec. 7, 1945. Disch. Jan. 12, 1946. Son of Gudm. and Thora Oliver, Selkirk, Man.



**SGT. JON FREEMAN**—Born at Hove, Man. July 11, 1913. Joined R.C.A. Oct. 26, 1942. Trained at Victoria, B.C. Served in England, France, Belgium, and was on police duty in Germany. Returned Jan. 1946. Discharged Mar. '46. Son of Vilband and Eyolfina (Lena) Freeman, Winnipeg, Man., formerly of Oak Point, Man.



**Pfc. Kristjan D. Kristjanson**



**John J. Kristjanson**

**PFC. KRISTJAN D. KRISTJANSON**—Born at Edinburg, N. D., July 8, 1925. Inducted into the army Oct. 3, 1943. Took basic training at Camp Roberts, Calif. Served in New Caledonia, Anguar, with the Wildcat 81 Div., the Philippine Islands and Japan. Returned Feb. 1st. Discharged Feb. 7, 1946.

**JOHN J. KRISTJANSON**—Born at Edinburg, N. D., Sept. 2, 1919. Entered the service May 27, 1942. Served 2 years with the 6th Air Force in Canal Zone, 11 months with the 4th Air Force at Dagget, Calif.

**SONS OF KRISTJAN K. AND ALDIS (BREIDFJORD) KRISTJANSON,  
EDINBURG, N. D.**



**PTE. JOHN FREDRIK JOHANSON**—Born at Saskatoon, Sask., June 16, 1924. Enlisted in the Canadian Army Aug. 21, 1944. Embarked overseas March 1945. Discharged Sept. 1946. Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Johanson, Buchanan, Sask.



**STO. 1/c JACOB VIGGO MCBRYAN**—Born at Winnipeg, Man., Mar. 21, 1926. Joined the R.C.N.V.R. Feb. 28, 1944. Served in Halifax until his discharge Aug. 1945. Son of Mrs. E. (Anna Myrdal) McBryan, Winnipeg, Man.





S.-Lieut. M. A. Thorsteinson Tel. S. B. Thorsteinson S.-Sgt. J. S. Thorsteinson

**ELEC. SUB.-LIEUT. MARVIN A. THORSTEINSON**—Born at Winnipeg, Man., 1917.

Enlisted in the R.C.N.V.R. 1941. Discharged 1945.

**TEL. SIGURDUR BALDWIN THORSTEINSON**—Enlisted in the R.C.N.V.R. June 5, 1944. Discharged October 16, 1945.

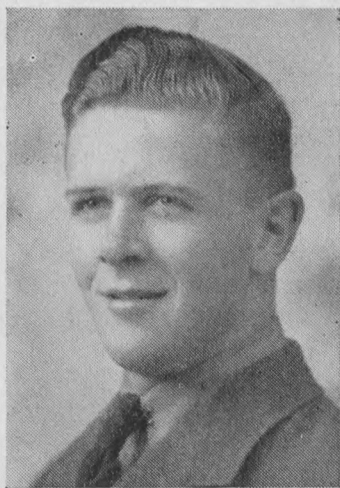
**STAFF SGT. JOHN STEPHAN THORSTEINSON**—Born at Winnipeg, Man., 1919. Enlisted in the Canadian Army 1941. Discharged 1946.

**SONS OF ADALSTEIN AND KRISTIN THORSTEINSON, WINNIPEG, MAN.**

Another son, Rurik William, was killed in action Aug. 8, 1944. Photo in Dec. '44 issue.



**A.C.E.T.M. JACOB ERLENDSON**—Born at Hensel, N. D., May 10, 1920. Joined the U.S. Navy Feb. 4, 1942. Trained at Texas A. & M. College, aviation electronic school, Corpus Christie, Texas, and Naval research laboratories, Wash. Served with U.S. 8th Fleet in Africa, Italy and France. Discharged Dec. 13, 1945. Son of Jacob and Gwennie Erlemdson, Hensel, N. D.



**ALVIN BLONDAL**—Born in Winnipeg, Man., Mar. 1, 1924. Enlisted in R.C.A.F. June 16, 1943. Stationed at Brandon, Man., and Coal Harbor, Vancouver, B.C., and Regina, Sask. While in Regina he broke his hand in training. Discharged Feb. 14, 1945. Son of Mrs. Blondal and the late Dr. A. Blondal, Winnipeg, Man. Photo of their son F.O. Harold appeared in Sept. 1943 issue.





**Pte. John P. Nicholson**

**PTE. JOHN P. NICHOLSON**—Joined the Canadian Army Feb. 6, 1944. Trained in Canada. Embarked overseas Feb. 6, 1945. Served in the occupation of Germany. Returned April 29, 1946. Discharged June 6, 1946.

**“IN MEMORIAM”**

**PTE. ALBERT H. NICHOLSON**—Joined the Canadian Army July 1941. Trained at Regina, Sask., Calgary, Alta., and Victoria, B. C. Transferred to Edmonton Fusiliers March 1943. Served in England and Italy. He was wounded Dec. 28, 1943 and passed away Jan. 1, 1944

**SONS OF MRS. JONINA (DALMAN) AND THE LATE NORMAN NICHOLSON,  
McLAREN, SASK.**



**Pte. Albert H. Nicholson**



**MRS. REESE (BENSON) HAWKINS, Jr.**—Joined the American National Red Cross as social service worker Aug. 1944. She was stationed in the Navy Hospital, Mare Island, Calif. Discharged 1945. Daughter of Attorney and Mrs. A. Benson, Bottineau, N.D..



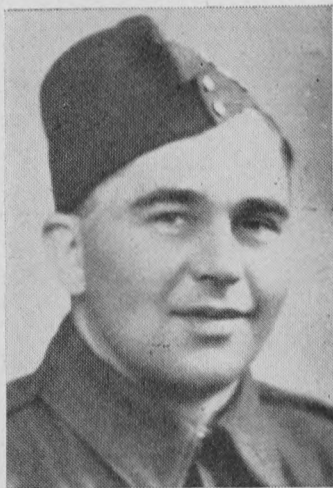
**SALLY MARGARET BLONDAL**—Born at Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., Feb. 22, 1925. Enlisted in C.W.A.C. June 22, 1944. Served as radiographer in Quebec Military Hospital, Quebec, P.Q. Discharged June 6, 1946. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bjorn Blondal, Regina, Sask.



**RALPH ALLAN JONDAHL**—Born at Cass Lake, Minn., Oct. 22, 1923. Inducted into service May 19, 1943. Received basic training at Lincoln Air Base. Served under the A.S.T.P., Ft. Collins, Col. Transferred to Engineers Maintenance Co., at Camp Shelley, Miss. Served on Okinawa Island. Discharged 1946. Son of Orville Leroy and Theresa (Goodman) Jondahl, Cass Lake, Minn.



**PTE. THORSTEINN ERLING HOLM**—Born at Mountain, N. D., Apr. 17, 1914. Joined the U.S. Army July 16, 1942. Served with Medical Corps in Africa, Sicily, Italy, Southern France and Germany. Wounded at Anzis Beach. He was awarded the Purple Heart, 5 bronze stars and the Arrowhead medals. Discharged Oct. 12, 1945. Son of Bjorg (Halldorson) and the late John B. Holm, Mountain, N. D.



**CPL. INGI BORGFORD**—Born at Leslie, Sask., June 9, 1911. Enlisted in R.C.O.C. Jan. 3, 1940 and was with the 1st and 5th Div. Served in England, Sicily and Italy. He was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the following medals: Battle of Britain, C.V.S.M., Italian Star, 1939-1945 Star. Son of Mrs. and the late Jon Borgford, Leslie, Sask.



**CPL. BJORN O. RASMUSSEN**—Born at Markerville, Alta. Joined the Canadian Army at age of 19. Trained at Currie Barracks, Calgary. Embarked for England Sept. 1942. Served in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Son of Mr. and Mrs. (Thordys G. Bjornson) Rasmussen, Markerville, Alta.

## *The Musical Concert*

An appreciative overflow audience attended the musical concert sponsored by the Icelandic Canadian club May 10th, to present selections from the works of Icelandic-Canadian and American composers, which the club has been collecting.

The concert has done much, to augment the public's enthusiasm for this timely project, and numerous letters and messages of appreciation have been received, not only from those who attended the concert, but also from others whom distance prevented from coming. Many of the composers or their friends have written, expressing warm gratitude to the club for undertaking this work. S. K. Hall mentions in particular the fine arrangement of the program, and pays tribute to Mrs. Gudmunds and her committee for the splendid efforts put forth.

In a letter to the president, Axel Vopnfjord, Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, who is well known for his generous support of cultural causes, says:

"I wish to tell you how much I enjoyed the concert that was presented by the Icelandic Canadian club on May 10. The club deserves credit for bringing to the attention of this city the contribution Iceland has made in the field of musical composition.

"I understand that you are trying to raise funds to have these works presented and published and I would be happy to be associated with this very worthwhile effort.

"I wish to take this opportunity of congratulating you and the members of the Icelandic Canadian club for the many excellent projects they are supporting and developing and wish you every success in your efforts". (Signed, P. H. T. Thorlakson).

The following is the review written by S. Roy Maley, who is music critic for **The Winnipeg Tribune**:

### ORIGINAL ICELANDIC MUSIC WINS ACCLAIM

A novel program of Icelandic music representing 14 different composers was given Monday evening in the I.O. G.T. hall, which was filled to capacity. Presented by the Icelandic Canadian Club of Winnipeg, the various items, along with many other compositions, are being collected by a committee, of which Mrs. Louise Gudmunds is chairman, for ultimate publication in book form.

Proceeds from the concert will form a nucleus fund established for this purpose, to help and preserve for the benefit of posterity the contributions of people of Icelandic origin on this continent.

Axel Vopnfjord, president of the Icelandic club, introduced the program and thanked all who had helped to make the concert a success.

Mrs. Gudmunds gave a "Sketch on the history of Icelandic Music," stressing the fact that "this little nation" had much to offer the rest of the world in musical benefits.

The program opened with selections by the Canadian Legion Band, under direction of Hjortur Larusson, who organized the first Icelandic band in Winnipeg. A resident of Minneapolis, he is visiting here and conducted performance of his own excellent Zuhrah Temple March, "Hurrah, Zuhrah, Hurrah."

A vocal quartet, comprising Mrs. Unnur Simmons, Olive Stefanson, Orn Thorsteinsson and Elmer Nordal, sang

eight songs. "Orar," by Jonas Pálsson, was especially beautiful for expressive detail and blend and balance of voices, which attained best unity in this number. Mr. Pálsson was a former resident of Winnipeg, who died in Vancouver last year. Another song, "Snorri Sturluson," by Harald Sigurgeirson, held a folk-like haunting melody, with upward curving phrases. "Kvöld," by Mrs. Gudmunds, and "Sonur frumbyggja," were other quartet items which projected unity in lyric and music.

### Vocal Duets Appeal

Elma Gislason, soprano, and Elmer Nordal, who possesses an unusually big and resonant baritone, which he uses to artistic effect, presented vocal duets.

"Visnar vonir," by Mrs. Gudmunds, held expressive verbal passages and lofty climaxes, and Jon Fridfinnsson's "Ljosalfar," represented one of this composer's best works. He was long known in Winnipeg and district as composer-organist and choir leader.

Both Mrs. Gislason and Mr. Nordal presented solos, *Two Cameos*, by Anna Sveinsson Lowe, sung by Mrs. Gislason, were lyric gems and "Mamma ætlar að

sofna", by Mrs. Gudmunds, was another lovely song, which won first place in the California Composers' Society state contest in 1941. Mr. Nordal's contributions included an especially expressive rendition of "Vogguljóð", by Friðfinnsson.

Tryggvi Thorsteinsson's presentation of "Rímnalög" won popular approval.

Irene Thorolfson, with Chester Duncan at the piano, presented the Violin and Piano Sonata by Thordur J. W. Swinburne. A brief work in five sections, it is simple in structure, unpretentious, and has melodic sequences of pleasing variety, with an especially appealing Allegro and Moderato.

The two artists later gave an invigorating performance of the quickly changing tempos of "Enigma" by S. O. Thorlakson, and Frank Thorolfson's "Minning" still holds personal appeal after many years' hearing.

Other composers represented on the program included Guðnsteinn Eyjolfsson, Bjorgvin Guðmundsson, S. K. Hall, Gísli Johnson and Sigurður Helgason.

Mrs. Jónína Matthíasen proved a highly efficient accompanist for all the vocal work. —S. R. M.

## Guttormsson Honoured

Guttormur J. Guttormsson, of Riverton, Manitoba, has been awarded an annual author's subsidy by the government of Iceland in recognition for his outstanding contribution to Icelandic literature. Guttormsson who was born at Riverton, on the farm where he still resides, has published four volumes of poetry and a volume of ten one-act plays, written in the Icelandic language.

But it is the quality of his work rather than the quantity of output that has established him as a ranking poet and writer, and his eminence in the field of letters is recognized on both sides of the Atlantic. A new and elegant edition of all his collected poems has just been placed on the book market in Iceland, published by the 'Íðunnarútgáfan', Reykjavík.



## *Captain Mike of the "Radium Prince"*

By R. B. MILLER

I met Mike Arnfinson this summer 'way down north on the Great Bear River. I was impressed, anybody would be, for Mike is two hundred and thirty two pounds of powerful, active Ice-lander. Slightly in need of a shave, he was leaning out of the window of his pilot house on the **Radium Prince**, roaring directions at a gang of men loading precious radium and uranium concentrate on to his barge. In a few minutes, when his barge was loaded, he cast loose from the dock and began the forty-eight mile trip down the Bear River to the rapids.

The more I learned about Mike, the more impressed I was. But before I tell you more about Mike, let me sketch in the background of the shipping of "atom-bomb" ore. Everybody knows, now, that the radium and uranium pitchblende is dug out of a hole in the rock on the east shore of Great Bear Lake. Here at Port Radium, the ore is concentrated, packed into ninety-pound sacks and shipped to Port Hope, Ontario, to be refined. What everybody probably doesn't know is that each sack of ore is handled eighteen times between Port Radium and railhead at Waterways. I won't bore you by detailing each of the eighteen handlings, but I will give you the stages in the journey to railhead.

The ore sacks are loaded on to a barge at Port Radium and pulled or pushed across Great Bear Lake about two hundred miles to the source of the Bear River on the west shore. There is one boat, the **Great Bear**, which handles this stage of the journey. At Bear River Landing, the source of the Bear River, the ore is transferred to smaller barges and taken down the Bear River forty-eight miles to the Bear

River Rapids. The river tug which does this is Mike's **Radium Prince**. At Bear River Rapids trucks take the stuff nine miles around the rapids where it is again loaded on river barges and taken by another tug about thirty miles to Fort Norman on the McKenzie River. Here the ore is transferred to larger river barges which go up the McKenzie, across Great Slave Lake, and up the Slave River to Fort Smith. Then another portage in trucks, back into boats, across Lake Athabasca, and up the Athabasca River to Waterways where the load finally gets on the rails.

All of this river transportation is tough work calling for tough, resourceful men; and the toughest stretch in the whole system is Mike's run from Bear River Landing to Bear River Rapids. The river here runs at nine miles per hour; it is narrow and very winding and treacherously shallow. Going downstream the tug and barges cannot draw more than twenty inches of water. And this twenty inches has to be found between scattered boulders and sand bars which often leave the barge only ten inches side clearance. Mike crosses from bank to bank eighty-four times in one trip, ferreting out this narrow, invisible, twenty-inch-deep channel. On the down trip he makes the forty-eight miles in three hours, often hitting twenty-two miles per hour in the current, pushing a barge with forty-five to sixty tons of radium concentrate worth over \$11,000. It is a real sight to watch him in his high pilot house spinning the wheel until the spokes disappear in a blur; the blur clears, the spokes reappear, only to disappear again immediately as Mike swings her hard the other way. At times

the untutored passenger is sure he saw his last sunrise that morning as the barge and tug charge at the river bank at twenty-two miles per hour; but, then, after a moment, when he has opened his eyes again, he is back in mid-channel, and then careening wildly at the other bank.

It seems a miracle that Mike can get down; it is a miracle, or rather, Mike is. **No one else can do it.** And it's not that others haven't tried. At least six experienced skippers have been brought in to try it. But all failed to make a go of it. The enormous responsibility of getting the ore out and supplies in to the mine rests squarely on Mike Arnfinson. Mike takes this responsibility very seriously. When navigation begins in the spring and there is twenty-four hours of daylight, he runs constantly. For more than six weeks he gets an average of only two and a half hours sleep per day.. Three hours down, twelve hours back, day and night he keeps it up until August and darkness at night forces him to tie up for a few hours each of the twenty-four.

Mike Arnfinson is the son of Bjorn and Anna Arnfinson, of Lundar, Man. He came to Waterways years ago from Manitoba. There he learned

the ways of rivers. He is one of those rare products of nature—a born fast-water man. He can read water. The channel in the Bear River is not marked—and what would be the use, as it is different each year? Mike first went up the Bear River in 1932 when work began on Gilbert Labine's find at Port Radium. An Indian acted as pilot on that first trip and ran the boat aground on a bar. Mike left him at Bear Lake and has been running the river ever since, fourteen years, alone. He has only gone aground once, when his engines failed on a down trip. All the supplies of food, mine machinery, oil and gas that have gone into Port Radium were delivered to Bear Lake by Captain Mike; and all the thousands of tons of radium concentrate that have come out have been taken down the Bear River by Mike.

I think that the powers that be have finally realized what an essential man Mike is and have been a little worried by it. What if something happened to him? At any rate a road is now being built from Bear River Rapids to Great Bear Lake which may eventually eliminate Mike's run.

—From "The New Trail", Vol. IV, No. 2.  
University of Alberta, quarterly magazine.

## A BRILLIANT CAREER

**Mr. J. F. Frederickson** recently attended the United Nations Maritime Conference at Geneva, Switzerland as advisor to the Canadian Delegation. Mr. Frederickson was graduated from the University of Toronto in Modern History in 1941 and joined the Department of Trade and Commerce. During the past few years, he has gained valuable experience with the Privy Council in Ottawa and the Parke Steamship Co., and the Canadian Shipping Board in Montreal. He left his position as Sec-

retary of the Canadian Shipping Board to join the newly formed Maritime Commission early this year.

Mr. Frederickson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kári Frederickson of Toronto, Ont., and grandson of the pioneers Friðjón and Guðný Frederickson, now both deceased.

★

**Mr. J. J. Swanson**, a well known realtor in Winnipeg, was recently re-elected Chairman of the Winnipeg Housing Commission.

## Book Reviews

**AMERICA 1355-1364.** A new chapter in Pre-Columbian History by Hjalmar R. Holand, New York 1946 xiv + 256 pages, 12 plates, \$4.00

As is well known, Mr. Holand has for decades devoted himself to a solution of the problems posed by the Kensington stone. In his two earlier works, **The Kensington Stone** and **Westward from Vinland**, he has marshalled a great deal of evidence supporting his claim that this stone is a genuine relic left in Minnesota by a Norwegian Swedish expedition sent out in the 1350's to seek for the inhabitants of the Western Settlement in Greenland who had in 1342 apostalized from the Christian faith and migrated en masse to America.

Not content with this Mr. Holand sets out in his new book to prove that the famous Newport Tower is a fortified round church from the middle ages, and that it was built by the above mentioned expedition and served as its headquarters. It is impossible here to summarize the evidence Mr. Holand brings forth to support his case. Suffice it to say that, in the opinion of this reviewer, Mr. Holand succeeds in making a very strong case for the round church thesis (in connection with this, one should refer to P. A. Means: **The Newport Tower**, New York 1942), but it seems far fetched to say that it was the headquarters of the Knutsson expedition in the 1350's. Mr. Holand is so attached to his thesis concerning this expedition that he is blind to any other possibilities. Everything must be in some way connected with it. Yet in one passage Mr. Holand states "—it does not seem

likely that the Greenland Norsemen would cease their visits to Vinland..." This is certainly so and there is no reason why the Greenlanders could not have penetrated even Central and South America. But if one admits that voyages continued to be made to Vinland, there is no reason for supposing that settlements were not made on the east coast of America. Any attempt to ascribe undated relics to a particular expedition are thus rather futile. It **may** be that the fortified round church, known as the Newport Tower, was the headquarters of an expedition which **may** have been made to America in the 1350's, but the chances are equally great, if not greater, that it was the church of an Icelandic settlement on the east coast of America. However that may be it seems that Mr. Holand has at least settled the fact that the Newport Tower was a fortified round church.

The attempt to trace the route of the supposed expedition throughout Minnesota is ingenious though, to this reviewer, somewhat unconvincing. However, Mr. Holand does advance good arguments in support of his route if one accepts his moving stone thesis. There is a chapter on "New Pre-Columbian Finds" and one on "Three Ceremonial Halberds", in which Mr. Holand adds to the already considerable list of implements and weapons he thinks the expedition left in Minnesota and neighboring territory.

The chapter on "The Location of Vinland" is another addition to the great number of works in which Vinland is finally and definitely located. I am always filled with a sense of frustration or futility after reading one of these accounts.

One or two minor observations: The fiction that the Eskimos warred on the Icelanders in Greenland certainly dies hard. Mr. Holand here speaks of "racial antagonism between the Norsemen and the Eskimos" which "reached a climax of hostility" in the 1340's (p. 11) and again "their enemies, the Eskimos". Yet there is not a shred of evidence to support the view that anything but the most friendly relations existed between the Eskimos and Icelanders. (cf. Vilhjalmur Stefansson:

Greenland, New York 1943 ch. 10). It would also be interesting to know why Mr. Holand calls Greenland "at that time (middle of 14th century) a crown colony".

In conclusion I would, in order that no one may misunderstand me as I have dwelt more on the faults than the virtues of the book, recommend it highly and express my admiration of the work to which Mr. Holand has given so much of his life.

—T.J.O.

## VISITORS FROM ICELAND

**Mrs. R. E. Kvaran** from Iceland was a recent visitor in Winnipeg, where she was warmly welcomed by a host of friends, having lived here for a number of years, while her husband, Rev. Ragnar E. Kvaran served as pastor at the First Federated churches in Winnipeg and other Icelandic communities. On May 1, the Alliance of Icelandic Liberal Christian Women tendered a reception in her honor, where the president, Mrs. S. E. Björnson presented her with a gift on behalf of the Alliance.

Mrs. Kvaran left May 3, and will stay in Minneapolis during the summer with her daughter, Matthildur, who married Jón Björnson while he was serving with the American forces in Iceland.

**Miss Svana Sigurdson**, daughter of the Most Rev. Sigurgeir Sigurdson, bishop of Iceland, has arrived in Winnipeg for a visit from Los Angeles, where she spent the winter studying music.

Miss Sigurdson is secretary at the ministry of the church and justice in Reykjavík, and came from Iceland last November. She is a graduate of the Kvinnaskóli in Reykjavík, knows several languages and can cook all the Icelandic traditional dishes. But her hobby, she says, is music.

**Mr. and Mrs. Hjalti Tómasson** have been visiting for a few weeks with Mrs. Tómasson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marino Thorvaldson. Hjalti studied flying in Winnipeg where he met and married Margaret Thorvaldson. They flew from Iceland to New York on the large Icelandic passenger plane "Hekla", and brought their young son with them.

★

## WINS DISTINCTION

**Barbara Johnson**, 17, of 864 Simcoe St., who is a member of the Ice Club of Greater Winnipeg, left early this spring for Edmonton, where she joined the Ice Cycles. Barbara was discovered by the American figure skating group while practising figures, during their appearance in Winnipeg. Barbara skated with the company for the rest of its tour, which ended at San Diego, May 31, and in September she will join the group at Dallas, Texas, to train for the 1949 show. This young skater is the holder of the bronze medal of the Canadian Figure Skating Association for dancing and figures. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Johnson and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Einar Sigurdson, pioneers of Oak View district.



## *In The News*

### ACTOR TO GO TO ICELAND



Mr. Yngvi Thorkelsson passed through Winnipeg recently on his way to visit his sister in Seattle. He has been staff technician at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, New Jersey, since 1946.

Mr. Thorkelsson was brought up in Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland, and from his earliest childhood was interested in the theatre. Having taken part in several plays in Vestmannaeyjar, he came to Canada when about twenty years of age, to study dramatics. He went to British Columbia, and two years later or in 1926, to Seattle, Washington.

For four years he studied at the Cornish School of Art, in Seattle and on graduation in 1933 was termed 'the most versatile student' (of the school). While there he won a scholarship three times and two fellowships, and received the school's highest marks in dramatics in 1932. During his course he had laid particular emphasis on the technical

side of drama production, becoming an expert in lighting and special effects as well as in the designing and construction of sets and stage properties.

During these years he did considerable voluntary work in the field of dramatics, producing a number of plays with a group of Icelandic players. In 1930 he produced and directed "Nýársnóttin" (New Years Night) by Indriði Einarsson and translated by Mrs. Jakobina Johnson. At the same time he was engaged in the play productions of the Cornish School, portraying a wide variety of roles such as 'Dr. Rank' in Ibsen's 'Doll's House' and 'The Cardinal' in 'The Claws', a play by Manuel Rivas.

Following graduation he became actor and technician at the Repertory Playhouse, Seattle and later with the Repertory Players Association of New York.

In 1935-36 he visited Iceland, but returned to the United States to the Theatre Union on Broadway, also working in Radio Drama.

Early in 1946 Ingvi Thorkelsson became staff technician at the Paper Mill Play House, which is well known for its artistic handling of plays, especially light opera productions. For the last two years Thorkelsson's skill and artistry in creating special effects has done much to enhance these productions.

At present he is considering the possibility of taking a position with the Icelandic National Theatre, Reykjavík. Ever since he came to this country it has been his dream to return to Iceland to work in the theatre there. Now this dream may become a reality, and his homeland become fortunate enough to reap the benefit of his extensive training and experience in theatre production.



**Alderman Victor B. Anderson** was re-elected by acclamation as president of Local 191, International Typographical Union at the elections held in May. Mr. Anderson has held this position for the last five years. He was also re-elected delegate to the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, which will be held in October at Victoria, B. C. Last year he attended as delegate when the Congress was held at Hamilton, Ont. Mr. Anderson has been secretary of the Winnipeg and District Trades and Labour Council for four years and has served on the Winnipeg City Council for 14 years.

★

#### LEAVE FOR ICELAND

**Miss Agnes Sigurdson** left for Iceland by plane May 14th. She will give piano recitals in Reykjavík and other cities while there, and late in June she will go to France to continue her musical studies with Miss Emma Boynet.

**Mrs. Gudlaug Johannesson** left early in June for Iceland where she will spend a year at the home of Ragnar Olafsson and his wife Kristín (who is a former Winnipegger). While in Ice-

land, Mrs. Johannesson will visit her relatives in Bárðardal and Mývatnsveit. Gudlaug was born in Argyle, and is a daughter of Jonas Helgason and the late Mrs. Helgason, who pioneered in the Argyle district. She is a member of the Icelandic Canadian Club, and an active church worker, being vice-president of the Junior Ladies' Aid of the First Lutheran church, where she has also served on the board of Deacons.

**Dr. and Mrs S. J. Jóhannesson** have been invited by the Icelandic government and the Grand Lodge of Iceland I.O.G.T., to visit the homeland this summer.

The well known poetess **Mrs. Jakobina Johnson** of Seattle, Wash., left for Iceland early in June in response to an invitation to visit the land of her birth. This is the second time she has been invited to visit Iceland.

★

#### CULTURAL WORK

**Mrs. H. F. Danielson**, who during the last year has been educational representative of the Icel. National League, has continued visiting the various chapters during the spring months, assisting the Icelandic schools which, at the close of a successful year, have held concerts where the children have performed plays, recited and sung in Icelandic.

In addition Mrs. Danielson has given addresses at concerts of the League chapters at Brown, Man., and also at Selkirk, where Rev. P. M. Petursson showed the Icelandic film, Mrs. Rosa Vernon gave vocal solos, and Rev. E. Brynjolfsson, exchange pastor at the First Lutheran church, spoke on Iceland.

Mrs. Danielson will leave for the West coast June 22, to be guest speaker at the annual celebration of the chapter "Ströndin" at Vancouver, B.C.



Last April Miss Sibba Axford retired as Superintendent of Nurses at Cannon Falls Sanitarium for tuberculous patients, Minnesota, after 25 years of service.

On May 5, a farewell banquet was given in her honor, where the sanitarium staff, board members and many people from the eight counties served by the sanitarium gathered to pay her homage. There were gifts, and speeches of appreciation by Dr. Karl Pfuetze, head of the sanitarium and Irving Todd Hastings, chairman of the hospital board.

During her time of service the sanitarium has grown from a few beds to one hundred, and Miss Axford's duties have been many and varied, being in charge of purchasing and planning the meals and hours for the help. Discharging these duties with dispatch and efficiency has left her time to give her personal attention to each and every patient, and the sanitarium is highly regarded in medical ratings.

Miss Axford was born in the Argyle district, Manitoba, the daughter of Arni and Guðbjörg Axford, and took her nurses training at St. Luke's Hosp., St. Paul, Minn.

She has accepted a position as Superintendent of Nurses, at St. Luke's Hosp., St. Paul.

★

Prof. and Mrs. Skuli Johnson left for the West coast June 9, to attend the annual convention of 'The Classical Association of Canada', held at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, during the week-end. The professor was invited to give the main address at the convention and he lectured on "The Classicism of the Poetry of A. E. Houseman".

★

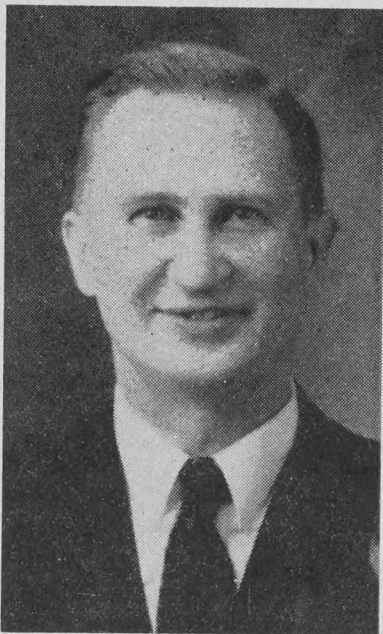
Mrs. H. G. Henrickson will leave early in July for Philadelphia for a three weeks stay at the U.L.C.A. Model Leadership Training Camp, "Nawakwa". As representative of the Lutheran Women's League, she will attend the session of this model camp to observe methods of leadership training, and camp management.

★

At the Manitoba Musical Festival, which was held in the Winnipeg Auditorium in April the appearance of several commercial choirs, caused considerable interest. The adjudicator, Dr. Slater, pointed out that this was a step in the right direction. The winning choir conducted by Kerr Wilson, well known in Winnipeg musical circles, was the Young Men's Section of the Board of Trade Male Voice choir. This choir was highly praised by Dr. Slater for their excellent control and quality of tone. This choir is well remembered by those who attended the annual concert of the Icelandic Canadian Club, where it delighted the listeners with its fine performance.

## News From Utah

### KIWANIS PRESIDENT



Elected as president of the Springville Kiwanis Club for 1948 was **John Y. Bearnsen**, well known business man and prominent church and civic worker.

Mr. Bearnsen is the son of Finnbogi Bjornson and his wife, Maria Christene Jensen, who came to Utah in 1866 from Jutland, Denmark. Finnbogi came to Utah in 1883 and was a nephew of Vigdis Björnsdóttir (Holt) who arrived with the first settlers in 1857. Two of Mr. Bearnsen's sisters who have been featured in the pages of the Icelandic Canadian, are: Mrs. Eleanor B. Jarvis of Spanish Fork, and Mrs. Kate B. Carter, outstanding writer, who has compiled eight volumes on Utah pioneer history.

John Y. Bearnsen received his B.S. degree from the University of Utah in 1925 and did post-graduate work at Northwestern University from 1928 to

1932. He served in the first World War as a corporal, and served as Captain of Engineer Corps in the last war. He was Commander of the American Legion post 28, of Springville for 1940, and has served as Bishop in the L.D.S. church since 1943.

The Springville Kiwanis club is 26 years old and many of its members have attended conventions in Canada. Says Mr. Bearnsen, "We have always been gratified by the spirit of understanding and co-operation that exists between our Canadian membership and our own in the United States. Many of our problems are your problems and we work for mutual understanding and friendship. Perhaps you cannot find anywhere in the world, two countries who get along so well as do the United States and Canada".

★

Participating in a Folklore convention of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers in April, was a chorus of 17 Icelandic girls who sang two numbers in the Icelandic language and then danced the national dance. All were dressed in the traditional festival costume of Iceland, with two of the girls, Mary Alice Bullen and Mary Jane Jarvis Nielson wearing treasured heirloom dresses worn by their ancestors, each of which were over 100 years old.

The convention took place in the Lafayette ballroom of the Hotel Utah and featured dances and songs from several other countries. All of the girls in the Icelandic chorus were third and fourth generation descendants of the original Icelandic settlers.

The highlight of the evening came when President Kate B. Carter was presented with a beautiful orchid corsage by the Icelandic Association. In thank-



## *Icelandic Chorus Is Featured At Salt Lake D. U. P. Convention*



Front row, left to right: Laurel Argyle, Mary Jane Jarvis Nielsen, Gerry Johnson, Mary Alice Bullen, Merlene McKell.

Back row, left to right: Blanche Grotgut, Blanche McKell, Afton Leifson, Zola Curtis, Dolores Johnson, Norma Bearson, Colleen Johnson, Beverly Johnson, Lois Johnson, Donna Johnson, Janet Johnson, Margaret Johnson.

—News and picture by courtesy of the Spanish Fork Press (Utah).

ing them, she told the group she was proud of her Icelandic heritage, and always cherished the "B" for Bearnsen in her name.

The chorus was arranged for by Mrs. Regina Erickson of Murray. Mrs. Emily Martin taught the girls the songs in the native language, Mrs. Lola Argyle led them in the songs, Mrs. Thelma

McKell accompanied on the piano, Mrs. Joyce Hanks Henderson taught them the native dance and Mrs. Eleanor B. Jarvis and Mrs. Ellen Taylor arranged for costumes. Accompanying the girls, who traveled by chartered bus to Salt Lake, were the ladies who had been in charge of directing arrangements for their performance.

## GRADUATES

of Icelandic extraction at University  
of Saskatchewan, 1948

### Bachelor of Arts

Una Kristjanson, Wynyard  
Dona Adelaide Peterson, Saskatoon  
Douglas Leighton Samson, Vanc.  
Esther Sigrun Gudjonson, Wynyard  
(Oct. 1947)  
Walter Paulson, Leslie (Oct. 1947)

### Bachelor of Education

John William Grimson, Elfros  
Haraldur Magnus Palsson, Calgary

### Bachelor of Household Science

Elizabeth Eleanor Jonsson, Prince  
Albert  
Barbara Rose Olafson, Rosetown

### B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering

Don Fraser Matheson, Yorkton

### Master of Education

Leo Thordarson, Superintendent of  
Schools, Melfort

Barbara Olafson graduated with **Great Distinction** and won the scholarship awarded to the graduate standing highest in the course in Household Science.

## UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**Betty Jane McKenty**, Isbister Scholarship, \$60.00, (second year). Daughter of Dr. Jack McKenty, Winnipeg, and his wife, the former Inga Tergesen.

**Carl Thorsteinson**, Isbister Scholarship, \$60.00 (second year).

**Irene Thorbjorg Sigurdson**, Richardson Scholarship \$200.00.

**Thora Solveig Asgeirson**, Sellers Scholarship in Arts, \$100.00, (first year). University Womens' Scholarship for highest standing in music I, of the school of music. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jon Asgeirson, Winnipeg.

**Erlingur Kari Eggertsson**, Sellers Scholarship, \$100.00, (second year). Son of Mrs. Thorey, and the late Arni Eggertsson, Winnipeg.

**Bodvar Bjarki Jacobson**, Tucker Scholarship in Science, \$200.00. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Bodvar Jacobson, Arborg, Manitoba.

**Carl Thorsteinson**, French Government Book Prize.

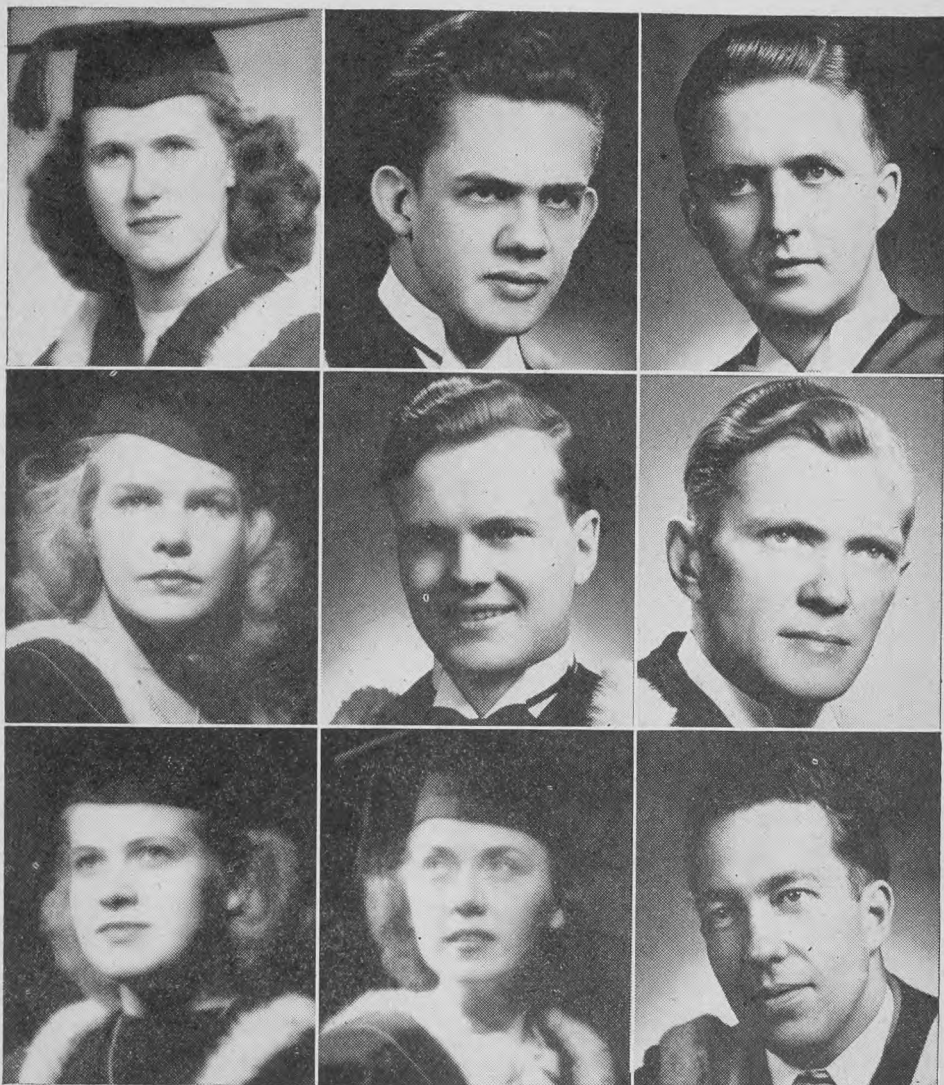
**Fred Ruppel**, Isbister Scholarship, \$60.00. Son of Mr. F. and Mrs. Hildur (Magnusson) Ruppel, Winnipeg.

**Richard Leonard Beck**, Isbister Scholarship, \$80.00, (Electrical Engineering, third year). Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Beck, Winnipeg.

Subscribe to

THE  
ICELANDIC CANADIAN

# GRADUATES



Top row, left to right:

Gloria Sivertson, Kristjan Gunnar Anderson, Gudmundur Lambertsen.

Second row, left to right:

Olof Eggertson, John Julius Arnason, Skapti Thorvaldson.

Third row, left to right:

Thora Stefansson, Irene Marion McInnes, S. Aleck Thorarinson.





Selma Stefanson



Sigurbjörg Stefanson

On April 22, 1948, the two sisters, Selma and Sigurbjörg Stefanson, graduated after three years of training, in Psychiatric Nursing, from the Provincial Mental Hospital in Essondale, B.C. This institution is operated by the provincial government, and there are about 4,000 people there, including the staff. Both sisters have positions with this hospital in the future. They are

daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Stefanson (frá Kaldbak), in New Westminster, B.C., (formerly of Hecla, Man.).

★

## Scholarship Winners



COURTESY INTERLAKE MUN. OBSERVER

Miss Shirley Eyolfson was awarded the Dr. G. Paulson scholarship of \$100 for highest standing in Grade XI at the Lundar Consolidated School, in 1947. She is a daughter of Oscar Eyolfson and his wife Pauline (Guttormsson).

Dr. Paulson, a public spirited citizen, has established this scholarship to be given annually for highest standing in Grade XI, at the Lundar school. The previous year the award went to Miss Jonina Eirikson, daughter of Beggi and Alla Eirikson of Mary Hill, Man.





**Miss Anna Jean Thomson** was born in Vancouver, B. C., in June 1926. She attended school in Keremose, B. C., and

High School in Abbotsford, where she won the Royal Institute Scholarship given by the University of British Columbia, for highest marks in University entrance exams, in the Fraser Valley District.

This year Miss Thomson won a prize of \$25.00 for an essay at the U.B.C., and the French Government Medal Award. She was further awarded a \$500.00 fellowship to the University of Toronto, where she will continue her studies next year.

Miss Thomson is a daughter of the late Roy Thomson and his wife Bjorg Thomson, who is matron at the Vancouver Old Folks Home, and is a niece of the late Mrs. D. L. Durkin, well known in Vancouver.

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## GRADUATES

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### Master of Arts

Thelma Audrey Johnson

### Bachelor of Arts

Carl Bjarnason

Joyce Gudrun Freda Sigurdson

Sigrun Borga Sigurdson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Kristjan Sigurdson, Geysir.

Gloria Sivertson, daughter of Maria (nee Olafsson) and P. J. Sivertson, Winnipeg. She is studying for her A.T.C.M., teaches piano, and has taken vocal music lessons for a number of years.

Thora Stefanson, daughter of Hall-dor and Thruda Stefanson, Winnipeg. She will continue her studies with the Faculty of Education.

Helen Bjorg Thorsteinson.

### Doctor of Medicine

Jonas Gudmundur Leonard Johnson, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bjorn Johnson, Vigar, Man.

Gudmundur Lambertsen, son of Mrs. G. Lambertsen and the late Mr. G. Lambertsen, of Glenboro, Man.

**Shirley Johnson**, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Johnson, Winnipeg, formerly of Baldur, Man., graduated from Queen's University on May 15, 1948, receiving a degree of B.A., majoring in Biology and Chemistry. During the term of 1947-48 she was president of the Levana Womens' Society, which consists of all women registered at Queen's University. During her term of office a special convocation was held at Queen's, where Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was given a honorary degree of LL.D. After Mrs. Roosevelt's address, Shirley had the honor of delivering the address of thanks on behalf of the university.

★

### Bachelor of Education

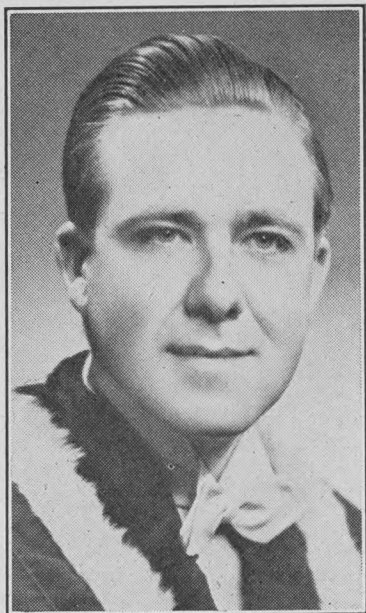
Axel Vopnfjord, B.A.

Jonas Samson (Sask.)

### Diploma of Education

Carol Joy Palmason, B.Sc.

Carol Joyce Sigurson, B.Sc.

**Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy**

Lincoln Paul Sveinson, son of Mrs. Minnie Sveinson and the late Mr. Paul Sveinson, Winnipeg.

**Bachelor of Science General Course**

Sigursteinn Alec Thorarinson, son of Mrs. S. Thorarinson, and the late M. Thorarinson, Winnipeg.

Donald Wynne Axford, son of Mrs. Ethel Axford and the late Gudmundur Axford of Winnipeg.

James Elias Hanson

Jon Henry Gossen

**Electrical Engineering**

Skapti Olafur Thorvaldson, son of Mr. Svein Thorvaldson, M.B.E., and the late Margret Thorvaldson, Riverton.

Kristjan Gunnar Anderson, son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Anderson of Glenboro.

John Julius Arnason.

**Diploma in Social Work, July 15, 1947**

Pauline Einarson, B.A.

Salina Jonasson, B.A.

Ruth Lindal, B.A.

**Bachelor of Science in Home Economics**

Ailene Hope Christianson

Olof Thelma Eggertson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Eggertson, Winnipeg.

Irene Marian McInnes, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Orville McInnes, Winnipeg. She will study dietetics in Hamilton, Ontario.

Tanis Marie Thorlakson, daughter of Dr. P. H. T. & Mrs. Thorlakson, Winnipeg.

Ellen Frances Hannesson

Gertrude Edith Hannesson

Elsie May Halvorson

**Bachelor of Science in Agriculture**

Johannes Skapti Skaptason

The Icelandic Canadian gratefully acknowledges the courtesy of Davidson Studios, 106 Osborne St., Winnipeg, who supplied pictures of graduates.

★

**Six Kristjanson's Graduate**

Una Hildegerdur and Svava Hallfridur, born in 1927, twin daughters of Hakon and Gudny (Solmundson) Kristjanson of Wynyard, Sask., received their B.A. degree this spring. They are the youngest in the Kristjanson family of six children who have all graduated with distinction.

Una graduated from the U. of Sask., majoring in English. She was a member of the College executive for two years, representative on the Radio Directorate in '46, and on the Music Directorate in '47. Was member of the Student Operetta chorus, doing solo work in leading roles during second and third years. Was also active in University drama. She was one of thirteen students to win the University Honour Social Award.

Svava enrolled with her twin sister at the U. of Sask., in 1945. While there she won two scholarships. Was active

**Svava Kristjanson****Una H. Kristjanson****Lily G. Kristjanson**

in sports, Operetta Chorus, winning minor college and University Social Awards, and a minor Athletic Award. In 1947 she transferred to the U. of Br. Col., graduated 1948, majoring in Biology.

**Lily Gudrun**, born 1922, entered U. of Sask., 1943 after teaching school for two years. Received her B.A. degree in 1946, majoring in English. During the course she won a \$300.00 scholarship. Was college representative on the Debating Directorate, and winner of the Hill Cup and McGowan Cup Debates. She was one of two Canadian student representatives to the Institute of World Affairs held at Salisbury, Connecticut. While there, the students were permitted to attend a session of United Nations in New York. She is at present on the staff of the U.B.C. Library, Vancouver, and is active in debating, being a member of the Fabian Society and the C.C.Y.M. group.

**Gustaf**, graduate U. of Sask., 1939. Is on the staff of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Toronto, as production director. (See Icel. Can., Vol. 6, No. 1 and Vol. 3, No. 4).

**Arnthor Marino**, graduate U. of Sask., 1942. Is studying for a Doctor's degree in Chemistry at McGill. (See Vol. 3, No. 4 and Vol. 6, No. 3).



**Jonas Ingiberg**, graduate U. of Sask., 1947. (B.Sc. in Agriculture). Is assessor of farm lands and properties for the Sask. Government. (See Vol. 6, No. 3).

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### Letter to the Editor

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I would like to see some of your excellent articles reprinted in magazines such as the Reader's Digest, which reaches millions of people. I am referring in particular to the editorial of the Winter issue, 1947. The subject matter should be of vital interest to thinking people every where.

J. S. Thorsteinson, Wynyard, Sask.

## GOLD MEDALISTS

### B.Sc. AGRICULTURE



COURTESY WINNIPEG TRIBUNE

**Helgi Halldor Austman** (Gold Medal), son of Halldor and Anna Austman, Vidir, Man.

### COMMERCE



COURTESY WINNIPEG TRIBUNE

**Stanley Armstrong** (Gold Medal), son of James and Lara (Bjornson) Armstrong, Winnipeg, Man.

## Letters to the Editor

I have only a few of my back numbers left, as some one is always borrowing my 'Icelandic Canadian'. Please send me the missing numbers. We hope to get together to read and discuss some of the articles. . . . To me it is the best periodical dealing with Icelanders, in any language. The youngsters will like it. . . . I might say that I lost most of my copies to **non-Icelanders**.

Steve Solvason, Vancouver, B.C.

★

I have read 'Iceland's Thousand Years' and am indeed sorry to have finished it, I could have gone on and

on . . . it has been a complete eye-opener for me! All I ever knew about Iceland from the school books was that it has a volcano.

What a fascinating old character was Snorri! Outside of the British Museum Library am I likely ever to find a translation of his 'Heimskringla'? . . . And those Dark Ages . . . so terrible, and yet the article shows what remarkable character they produced. . . . Yes, the whole book has fascinated me!

Gertrude Davis,  
Cadsden Princes Risborough, England



## PHARMACY



**Donald Morris Johnson**, winner of Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association Gold Medal for highest standing 2nd, 3rd and 4th years pharmacy and \$25.00 Malinckrodt prize in pharmaceutical chemistry for highest standing in inorganic and organic chemistry 3rd and 4th years of pharmacy. Son of Mr. & Mrs. Bergman Johnson, Winnipeg.

I have enjoyed your magazine since the first copy; it is very instructive and newsy, and a great link between the scattered descendants of Icelanders here. It is a paper to be proud of. Wishing you a lot of luck for the future.

(Mrs.) Jonina Lambourne,  
Portland, Oregon.  
(Formerly Jennie Johnson of Wpeg.)

★

To those responsible for the Publication. — This periodical should appeal to all Canadians and Americans of Icelandic origin, being written in the language of their adoption and being presented in an attractive form. The

articles are well written, some being really excellent, and the subject matter is interesting. Many who are not of Icelandic origin find it good reading. Readers should give it their support by freely expressing their opinions.

G. Paulson, M.D., Lundar, Man.

★

I was very pleased to receive the extra copy of "Iceland's Thousand Years" as I had forgotten about the discount. I gave the first three copies to young Icelandic friends who cannot read Icelandic but want to know something about their background. Wishing you the best of luck in your good work.

J. Johnson, Vestfold, Man.

★

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## *History in Icelandic Vocabulary*

(Continued from page 12)

contact. As in Anglo-Saxon and in German, a large proportion of the vocabulary employed was created for the purpose out of native materials. Thus we have **upprisa** for "Resurrection", **uppstigning** for "Ascension", and **utsetning** for "excommunication". These are calqued from Latin. The term **læri-sveinn** "disciple" is interesting as a re-calque of AS. **leorning-cnicht**, itself a calque from Latin and the term used in English at the time the gospel was carried to the far North. Similarly the Anglo-Saxons calqued **fulluht** "cleansing" from the Latin **baptisma** (Gk. **baptisma**); and the Icelanders re-calqued this again as **skírn** (**skíra** "to cleanse").

But religion was not the only influence affecting early Icelandic vocabulary. Commerce was an even richer source of verbal imports and here no other contribution is comparable to that of the English, who traded heavily with the island when intercourse was free and who continued to trade as defiant smugglers when Norwegian or Danish overlords tried to monopolize all the business of Iceland. The word **búð** "booth, shop" originally referred to the temporary booths set up by the merchants who came by ship. **Sterlingr** "sterling", **penningr** "penny", and **mynt** "mint" are all early borrowings and testify to the English eminence as mint-masters. The nature of their commerce is reflected in the names of (a) natural products, e.g. **barlak** "barley" (A.S. **bærlic**), where the native Scandinavian word was **bygg**; **pera** "pear" (A.S. **pere**); **piparr** "pepper" (A.S. **pipar**, L.); **ploma** "plum" (A.S. **plume**, L.); and **næpe** "turnip" (A.S. **næp**); **kál** "cab-

bage" (A.S. **cawl**, L. **caulis**); (b) textiles and clothing, e.g., **pell** "velvet" (A.S. **pelle**, L. **pallium**); **kult** "quilt"; **klútr** "a kerchief, clout"; **kápa** "cloak"; **möttull** "mantle" (A.S. **mæntel**, L.); **sokkur** "sock"; **peisa** "jerkin, upper part of dress (Eng. **piece**)"; (c) animals, e.g., **múll** "mule" (A.S. **múl**, L.); and **pái** or **pái** "peacock" (A.S. **peá**); (d) miscellaneous products and crafts: **larðr** "lard"; **púðr** "powder"; **pjátr** "pewter"; **sápa** "soap"; **ömpull** "flask"; **poki** "pouch, poke"; **diskur** "plate"; **kista** "chest"; **panna** "pan"; **pinni** "pin"; **pípa** "pipe"; **skons** "a sconce, lantern"; **páll** "hoe, spade" (Eng. **pole**); **prýði** "ornament" (A.S. **prýt**); **gim-steinn** "gem"; **perla** "pearl"; **signet** "signet-ring"; **timpan** "timbrel"; **sútari** "tanner" (A.S. **sútere**); and **mylna** "mill" (A.S. **mylen**). Nearly all of these had already entered English from other languages, especially from Latin, but their entry into Icelandic was directly from English, during the commercial intercourse of several centuries. Two verbs, **prenta** "to print" and **plukka** "to pluck", have special significance. The former came in during the days of Caxton or a little later, and this English source of Icelandic printing is corroborated by the fact that the other Scandinavian countries have borrowed from German **drucken** (cp., e.g., Danish **trycke**). The presence of **plukka** (the native word was **reyta**) hints at the share the English took in encouraging the export of eider-down from Iceland back to England.

Other countries of commercial genius shared with the English in the course of Icelandic trade; and the activities of the Hanseatic League brought pro-

ducts and vocabulary not merely from the Netherlands and the northern coasts of Germany but even from the Slavic peoples on the east coasts of the Baltic. From the Low Countries came *skipari* "mariner" (English *skipper* is likewise from Dutch); *kuggur* "cog" (a type of ship); *dugga* "dogger, fishing smack" (hence also English *Doggerbank*); and *bik* "pitch". In the fourteenth century, during the Hanseatic trade, nearly every ship in Iceland was called *buza*, a Dutch term, ultimately from LL. *bussa* (cf. English *herring-buss*).

The courtesies attendant on trade perhaps helped to introduce *taferni* "tavern" (O.Sax. *taverni*, L. *taberna*); *bjórr* "beer" (OHG. *bior*, while the native Icelandic term had been *öl*, "ale"); and *plaga* "to treat, entertain" (cf. Dutch *plegen*). Allied terms are *strax* "at once" and *skikka* "to order".

As for the nature of their trade, we are not left entirely in doubt. *Fálki* "falcon" (Du. *valk*, L. *falco*) appeared as a trade term in the 13th century; and the white Icelandic falcon, highly prized in medieval Europe, was exported as late as the seventeenth century. *Ertr* "peas" (Du. *ert*) was borrowed in the 13th century and *edik* "vinegar" somewhat later. A different class of imports is indicated by *prjál* "a gewgaw", *spegill* "mirror", and *sigurverk* "clock" (cf. German *Prahl*, *Spiegel* and *Zeigerwerk*).

From the more easterly Baltic peoples came a further range of words. *Túlkur* "interpreter" is related to Lettish *tulkas* and Russian *tolku*; *brakún* "broker" is perhaps derived from O. Slav. *braku*; while *torg* "market" is the Russian *torgu* (O. Slav. *trugu*). Furs may have been imported, for *safali* "sable" appears to be the Old Slavic *soboli*; and if *silki* "silk" be, as some claim, from

Old Slavic *selku*, this cloth also found its way in from the East.

Some miscellaneous borrowings from these times are *forkur*, *kvaðrantur*, *bussel*, *sigli*, *signa*, *letur*, *spítal*, *burgeiss*, *kapall*, and *trafali*. *Forkur* "fork", pole" (Lat. *furca*) appears first in the tenth century. *Kvaðrantur* "quadrant" and *bussel* "bushel" came in in the twelfth century from Middle English and Old French. *Sigli* "to seal", *signa* "to sign" and *letur* "letters" are ultimately from Latin *sigillum*, *signare*, and *litterae*, but may have been mediated through English. *Spítal* "hospital" (LL. *hospitale*) marks the rise of medieval medicine. *Burgeiss*, which once meant "burgess, citizen" but now is slang for a "big-wig, grandee, swell", entered through Middle English from the French *bourgeois* (OF. *burgeis*). *Kapall* "a mare" is from Middle English *caple* (LL. *caballus*, Gr. *kaballes*, Slavic. cf. O.Slav. *Kobyła* "mare"). *Trafali* "hindrance, impediment" is apparently a later rendering of English *travail*. *Kver* "sheet, book" is from Old French *quaier* (LL. *quaternum*), from which English *quire* is also derived.

College life has developed two special terms, *frí* "vacation" (L. *feria*) and *doni* "outsiders" (Mid. English *done*, Sp. *don*, L. *dominus*). In this latter instance, it is interesting that whereas "dons" in English academic life are professors or instructors, they were, to the medieval classical schools of *Hólar* and *Skálholt*, those non-academic citizens whom German call *Philister* "Philistines". The term *doni* is still in use in Icelandic schools today.

The feudal system, which had its most typical and formative development in France, penetrated Icelandic vocabulary chiefly through English, to a less degree from the Low Countries, and least of all by direct contact

with the literature of France. Thus we have **turniment** "tournament"; **turner** "to ride a tilt"; **burt** "to joust" (OF. *bohourt* It. *bagordo*); **lenz** "lance"; **riddari** "knight" (through Danish *ri-dder*); **skvíari** "squire"; **stallari** a king's marshall" (OE. *stallare*, L. *stabularius*); **kriári** "crier"; **barún** "baron"; **lavarðr** "lord" (English, 12th century); **stivarðr** "steward"; **portari** "porter"; **tabarðr** "tabard"; and **dubba** "to dub" a knight. **Síra** or **Séra** "Sir" was borrowed from French at the end of the thirteenth century, but whereas it had originally been applied to knights, the Icelanders have always used it for priests, coupling it with the Christian name only. Thus the Rev. John Johnson becomes **Síra Jón**.

The ideals of feudalism are suggested by **æfintýr** "adventure" and **kurteisi** "courtesy" (Mid. E. *curteys*, Fr. *courtois*); and its darker side by **slandri** "slander"; **bastarður** "bastard"; **ribbaldi** "ribald"; **gabb** "mock" and **fól** "madman". The feminine side of its life peers out in **lafði** "lady", **sæi** "silk", **skarlat** "scarlet", **palafrey** "palfrey", **tapit** "carpet" and **púta** "harlot" (OF. *pute*). Nearly all the feudal terms are of French origin but **lavarðr** and **lafði** are purely English.

Many games entered the island in these early times. **Tafl** (A.S. *tæfl*, L. *tabula*) "tables", a game similar to draughts or to chess was a very remote borrowing and figures in the epic **Völuspá** where the gods are represented as playing "tables". In the eleventh century came **dans** (O. Ic. *danz*, Mid. E. *dance*, Fr. *danser*, LL. *dansare*, Bret-on?), together with ballads for dancing. **Skák** "chess" (ultimately Persian *shah* "king", cf. English *checkmate*, i.e. Persian, *shah mat* "the king is dead") reached Europe through the Crusaders and arrived in Iceland from Mid-

dle Low German. France contributed **kvátra**, mod. **kótra** (Fr. *quatre* "four"), a kind of "backgammon" which was exceedingly popular in the thirteenth century and is still played today.

Words introduced through books alone are not, as a rule, so numerous or so well assimilated. **Dikta** (1) "to compose in Latin", (2) "to romance", and (3) "to lie" (LL. *dictare*) testifies to the spread of romances, and **versa** "to put into verse" may have a like origin. The Vulgate Bible during the Middle Ages may have contributed such terms as **sikill** "shekel" (LL. *siclus* Hebr. *sheqel*, *sháqal* "to weigh"); **tertia** "third part"; **balsam** "balsam"; **fíkja** "fig"; and **marmari** "marble". Other possible borrowings through the Latin of the medieval church are **bréf** "letter", **akta** "to take a census" (L. *actare*), especially common in ecclesiastical writings of the 13th and 14th centuries; **dorma** "to doze" (L. *dormire*); **klárr** "clear" (L. *clarus*); **oliva** "olive" (L. *oliva*); **rósa**, **rós** "rose" (L. *rosa*); **lilja** "lily" (L. *lilium*); **unzia** "ounce" (L. *uncia*); and **bikarr** "goblet" (LL. *bicarium*).

The Reformation, effected largely by German influences and nourished by Luther's German translation of the Bible, has left its mark upon Icelandic vocabulary. **Sinni** "the mind" (Ger. *Sinn*), **straff** "punishment" (Ger. *Strafe*); **slekt** "kind, order" (Ger. *Geschlecht*); and **falskr** "false" (Ger. *falsch*) are direct importations of this sort. More complex are the creation of Icelandic calques, modelled closely after the German. Thus **forvara** "to keep" is obviously the German *verwahren*, **blífa** "to remain" is for German *bleiben*; **prakt** "pomp, show" is for *Pracht*; **þenkja** "to think" is for *denken*; **þanki** "a thought" is for *Gedanke*; while **opinbera** "to reveal" and **opinberan** "reve-



lation" are plainly traced on **offenbaren** and **Offenbarung**. So likewise the use of **gáfa** as a "gift" in a spiritual sense is due to the influence of the German **Gabe**. **Dóm-kirkja** "a cathedral" (Ger. **Dom-kirche**) represents a more recent contact.

Other German loan-words, more miscellaneous in nature, are **spázera** "to walk" (**spazieren**); **spila** "to play" (**spielen**), while the O. Ic. term was **leika**; **spreka** "to accost" (**sprechen**); **sniddari** "a tailor" (**Schneider**); **snúra** "a lace" (**Schnur**); **pantur** "a pledge" (**Pfand**); and **dáti** "a soldier" (**Soldat**, It. **soldatto**).

Alongside of **sniddari**, however, is **skraddari** "a tailor" (Danish **Skrædder**) and the presence of **frakki** "frock-coat" (Dan. **Frakke**, Eng. **frock**, Fr. **froc**, LL. **froculus**, **floccus**?) and **vesti** "vest" (Dan. **Vest**, Eng. **vest**) would seem to indicate that the men's modern fashions, originating in London, travel to Iceland by way of Copenhagen. Older borrowings point to Paris, for we find **surkot** "a surcoat" (O.F. **surcote**), and **bóti** "boot" (Fr. **botte**).

On the whole, the suzerainty of Denmark, which has extended from 1380 down to recent years (or more than half the span of Icelandic history) has had surprisingly little effect on Icelandic vocabulary. The Danish system of ecclesiastical organization has contributed **stipti** "a diocese, bishopric" (Dan. **Stift**) and **kanoki** "a canon" (Dan. **Kanik**). Commerce has added **peli** "a quarter-pint" (Dan. **Pægel**); **vekt**, (modern Icelandic **vigt**) "weight" (Dan. **Vægt**); and **krít** "chalk" (Dan. **Kridt**, Lat. **creta**). Literature has donated **krañs** "a wreath" (Dan. **Krans**) and **æra** "honor" (Dan. **ære**).

It might be expected on a **priori** grounds that many legal terms would be taken over from the overlords of Norway and Denmark successively, but

those who are familiar with the wholesale borrowings in legal vocabulary which the English made from Norman-French, will be surprised to learn that such loan-words are very rare in Icelandic. From the earliest times the island's interest in law was intense; constitutional developments were a major concern with Icelanders from the beginning; and the corpus of legal writings from the old days is bewilderingly vast. A nation with such a legal tradition of its own had little occasion to borrow the terminology of other countries or systems. One of its rare borrowings was **mat** "an estimate", taken over from the Norwegian **maat** shortly after the union with Norway in 1271 A.D., when the Norse Code replaced the old Common Law. Roman law, operating through the church, introduced the word **testament** "a will or bequest" (L. **testamentum**), the old Scandinavian law having been unfamiliar with a "last will". From Latin also came **termin** "a term, fixed date" (L. **terminus**, perhaps **viá** AS. **termen**) and **fals** "a fraud" (L. **falsum**). French contributed **prisund** "prison", probably through Dutch or Low German, and **statút** "a statute" (ultimately from LL. **statutum**). The centuries of Danish control added the sinister **böðull** "executioner" (Dan. **Böddel**).

The word **kussari** "pirate" (Port. **corsari**) long bore evidence as to the ravages of sinister sea-foes even in the remote North Atlantic. Another ill-omened term was **Serkir**, a plural noun meaning "Saracens" (Ar. **sharkeyn** "easterners"), for early in the seventeenth century Algerian corsairs pillaged the south of Iceland, massacred large numbers of the inhabitants, and carried others away into captivity in North Africa.

On the whole, the languages of the

Mediterranean world, apart from Latin, have contributed little to Icelandic, and most of that at second hand. Italian, for example, has given such words as **fantur**, **básuna**, **smelt**, and **signor**. **Fantur**, from It. **infanteria**, was introduced from Holland about the end of the twelfth century; it first meant "a foot-soldier", and later, by a natural medieval transition, "a vagabond". **Básuna** "trumpet, trombone" is from Ital. **bassone**, perhaps through French romances; and **smelt** "enamelling" is from **smalto**. **Signor**, older Icelandic **sinjor**, "lord, master" is, of course, the Italian **signore**; it survives in Iceland today as the title of a **hreppstjóri** or parish-overseer.

In addition to Greek borrowings already cited, we may note **trapiza**, **dreki**, **lepra**, and **fítons-andi**. **Trapiza** "a table" (Gk. **trapeza**) came into the early literature through the mediation of those Varangian vikings who struck southeast from the Baltic into Russia and ultimately established contacts with the Byzantine court. **Dreki** "a dragon" (Gk. **drakon**) was another very early borrowing, found in the old epic poem **Völuspá**. Its entrance may have been aided by the A.S. form **draca**, or the Latin **draco**. **Lepra** "leprosy" (Gk. **lepra** "leprosy", cf. **lepis** "a scale") has left its malign mark on Icelandic history, for the disease took root early, afflicted the population cruelly, and even today lingers on here after the rest of Europe has succeeded in stamping it out. The Greek **Python** "Python", (i.e. the celebrated serpent slain by Apollo) has had a strange subsequent history. In later Greek, **pythones** were ventriloquists, and the Low Latin **phitones** became equivalent to "wizards". Hence, in Old Icelandic, came **fítons-kona** "a sorceress", and in Modern Icelandic **fítons-andi** "frenzy".

Semitic borrowings include **kaffe** "coffee", ultimately from Arabic **qahwe**, but entering through Danish early in the eighteenth century; **soldan** "a sultan", through Old French, Low Latin, and Turkish from the Arabic **sultán** (**sulta** "to sway"); **tabúr** "tabor" through Old French **tabour**, from Arabic **atambor**; and **smaragður** "an emerald" through Greek **smaragdos** from the root of Hebrew **báraq**, "to shine".

This survey has considered only the remoter stages of Icelandic language and history. A detailed examination of the past hundred years would reveal, as in English, an enormous growth in scientific vocabulary; but whereas English has turned to Greek and Latin roots in the shaping of this newer terminology, modern Icelandic, with an intense feeling for the integrity of its texture, has industriously recast nearly all of this technical vocabulary in terms of its own resources. Of the thousands of words thus modelled from the diction of the wider modern world, the following examples are typical: 'aviator' becomes **flugmaður** (i.e. flight-man); "encyclopedia" is **alfræðibók** (i.e. book of all sciences); "bicycle" is **hjólhestur** (i.e. wheel-pony); "dynamo" is **aflvaki** (i.e. power-wakener); "biology" is **líffræði** (i.e. life-science); "bibliography" is **bókfræði** (i.e. book-science); "duodecimo" is **tólflaðabrot** (i.e. twelve-leaf size); **telescope** is "**sjónpípa**" (i.e. a seeing-tube); 'to telegraph' is **síma** (i.e. to wire); 'empiricism' is **reynslupekking** (i.e. experience-knowledge); and 'kleptomania' is **stelsíki** (i.e. stealing-sickness). A few untranslatable names of animals, products, and the like, have been taken over — such as **kengúrú**, **krókóðill**, **kóráll**, **dynamít**, **kamfóra**, **terpentinolia**, **sítróna**, and **karbólsápa** — but in general the treatment of foreign

terms repeats and intensifies that of the days of early Christianity, *viz.*, a recasting into native word-stuff of all diction that can be thus remodelled. The recastings may, to borrow an economist's phrase, be called "invisible imports" and are of equal importance with overt importations in estimating the balance of linguistic trade between languages and its significance in terms

of historical contact and cultural intercourse. To the philologist such trade-balances are of fundamental interest; to the historian, they are conceivably not without importance; and if they have some appeal to the general reader as well, this brief survey will have attained the end for which it was prepared.

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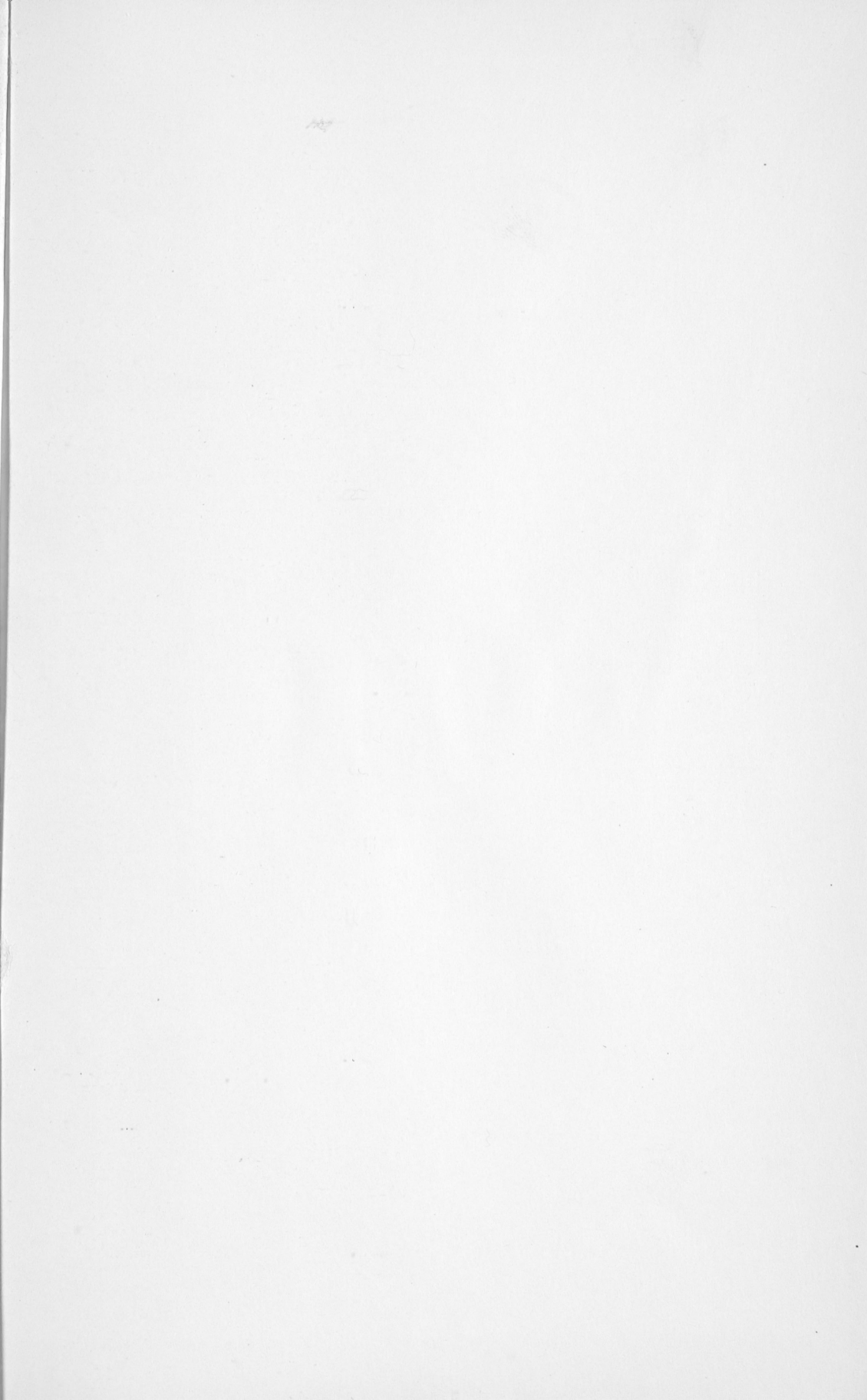
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